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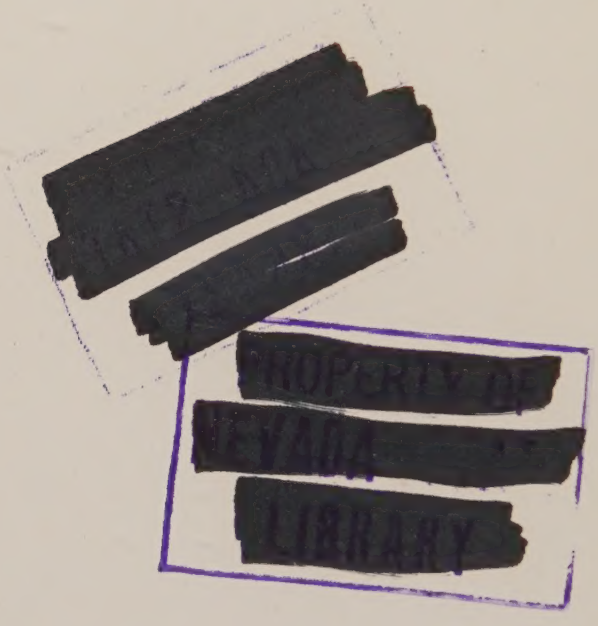

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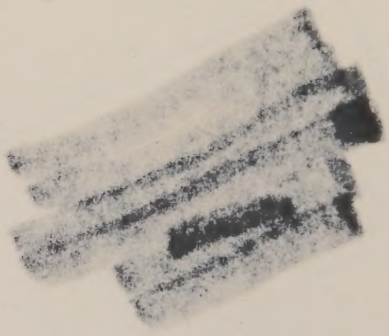

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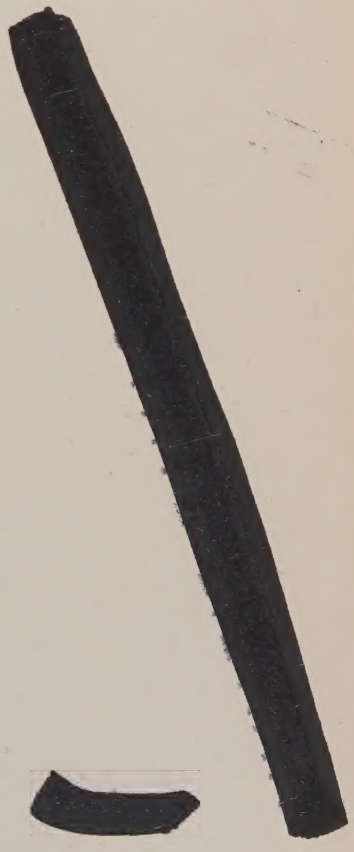

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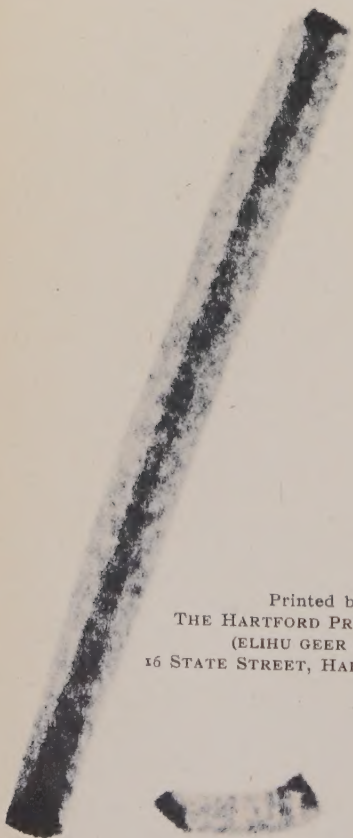

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INTRODUCTION.

This volume of Pitkin Papers forms the ninth issued by this Society containing an unbroken series of the correspondence and papers, chiefly of an official nature, of the governors of the Colony of Connecticut from October 1724 to October 1769. This period covers the governorships of Joseph Talcott, Jonathan Law, Roger Wolcott, Thomas Fitch and William Pitkin.

The short period of three and one half years covered by this volume includes the time when the American colonies, by their united spirit of opposition to the Stamp Act and other acts relating to taxation which they considered oppressive to their constitutional liberties, were able, with the aid of their supporters in Parliament, to alter to some extent the proposed course of British legislation. Yet they were constant in their assertions of loyalty to the Crown and to the Home Government, and deprecated any suggestion of separation from the mother country.

A great part of the letters and documents here printed are from two sources; that marvelous storehouse of records, the Public Record Office in London, and the valuable collection of manuscripts known as the Trumbull Papers. This last collection was presented by the heirs of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., in 1795 to the Massachusetts Historical Society. That society, after printing many of the earliest and most interesting papers in the collection and permitting others to be printed by this and other societies, has recently presented the whole collection to the State of Connecticut, and they are now deposited with other State Archives in the State Library at Hartford.

When the Trumbull Papers contained in this volume were copied, and when all except a few of them were put in type, they were in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and it is with that society's courteous per-

mission that they are here printed — a permission heartily seconded by our State Librarian.

The originals of other documents here printed are to be found in the bound volumes of William Samuel Johnson Papers, Roger Wolcott Papers, Thomas Fitch Papers and Council Orders, and among unbound papers, not now identified with any particular collection, all among the archives of this society. Still others are from the State Archives preserved in the Connecticut State Library, from the British Museum, from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and from the private collection of Lemuel A. Welles, Esq., of New York City.

The letters to Governor Pitkin contained in the valuable series of William Samuel Johnson correspondence printed by the Massachusetts Historical Society in the fifth series of its "Collections," volume IX, have been included in their proper places in this volume by means of short abstracts.

To the owners and custodians of the manuscripts here printed the thanks of this society are returned for the privileges so freely granted and for many courtesies extended by them in furthering the issue of this volume.

ALBERT C. BATES,
Chairman of the Publication Committee and Editor of this Volume.

The Society's Library, Nov. 21, 1921.

SKETCH OF WILLIAM PITKIN.

The fifteenth governor of Connecticut, William Pitkin, held that position from May 8, 1766, the day on which he was declared elected and took the oath of office, until his death October 1, 1769, at the age of seventy-five. He came of a good family: his grandfather and father, both bearing the name of William, were prominent in the public and official affairs of Hartford and of the colony and were learned in the law. His paternal grandmother was Hannah the daughter of Ozias Goodwin, and his mother was Elizabeth Stanley daughter of Captain Caleb and grand-daughter of Timothy.

William, later the governor, was born in Hartford April 30, 1694. On May 7, 1724, at the age of thirty, he married Mary Woodbridge, two years his senior, the daughter of Reverend Timothy Woodbridge, minister of the First Church in Hartford. They were the parents of five children, all sons; all of whom grew to manhood and left descendants. William had the advantage of his father's familiarity with and knowledge of public affairs, and not unnaturally chose the law as his profession and also took up a public career.

In May 1728 he was elected one of the representatives from the town of Hartford to the General Assembly, and was continuously re-elected until May 1734. For four sessions beginning with May 1732 he served as speaker of the House. The committees upon which he served were both numerous and important, and his frequent reappointment is evidence that his services gave satisfaction. Beginning the first session at which he was a member, he was frequently placed on the committee to hear the records of the Assembly read, serving in that capacity eighteen times while a representative or assistant. From 1744 to 1750 he was one of the committee to canvass the votes for governor and

other officials of the colony. He first appears as one of the auditors of the colony's accounts in May 1731, and was ten times reappointed; his latest service being in May 1755. He was on committees to adjust accounts with the colony's printer in 1729 and 1730, and to adjust the secretary's accounts in 1738. He served on committees relating to ecclesiastical societies and their division in Lebanon, Canterbury and Pomfret, Mansfield, Hebron, Farmington, Norwich, Woodstock and Windsor.

His military career began in 1730 when he was chosen captain of the train band in the parish of East Hartford. Nine years later he became major of the first regiment of Connecticut militia. The following year he was placed on the council of war, and later was three times a member of the committee of war. He was also appointed in 1740 to enroll men in Hartford county for service in the expedition against the Spanish West Indies. Other committees having to do with martial activities of which he was a member were, to settle accounts of the colony sloop "Defence" for 1744; to settle accounts for expenses of the war and commissaries in 1745, 1747 and 1749; to consider the muster rolls and the best proof of service of the colony's forces in the expedition against Cape Breton.

The ready funds of the colony were small, but her credit was good, and at various times both before and during the French and Indian War resort was had to the issue of bills of credit. The printing and signing of these was delegated to a committee chosen for the purpose, of which Pitkin was a member on thirteen occasions from 1733 to 1764; and in 1749 he was one of a committee to burn old bills which had been redeemed. Payment was several times made by the Crown to the colony's agent in England for expenses incurred by the colony during the war. Drafts against these payments were made by the sale of bills of exchange in this colony. On eleven occasions Pitkin was a member of the committee authorized to sell this sterling exchange.

He became judge of the Hartford county court in 1735, and was annually reappointed until 1752. In 1741 he became a judge of the Superior court, continuing in the office until his election as governor in 1766, and from 1754 was chief judge of that court.

In 1747 he was one of a committee in relation to affairs having to do with the unfortunate New London Society for Trade and Commerce. Four years later he was on a committee to raise funds for Yale College; and the same year was one of the commissioners to treat with the Six Nations of Indians. The following year he was one of a committee to further the colony's interests in the affairs of the Mohegan Indians and of the Massachusetts boundary, both of which it seemed likely would be laid before the Home Government. In 1754 he was a member of the famous Albany Congress, convened to consider a plan of union of the colonies, and served on the committee appointed by the convention to draft a constitution.

William Pitkin's name first appears on the official list of nominees for assistants, or members of the Upper House of the General Assembly, at the election in April 1732, when members were chosen for the session to be held the following month. His name stood twentieth and therefore last in the list of candidates. From this list the governor, deputy governor and twelve assistants were elected, leaving at each annual elective period six who failed of election. Candidates who had never yet achieved election were arranged at the foot of the list in the order of the number of votes they had received for nomination. His position at the foot of the list indicated the smallest number of votes of any of the nominees. The following year, 1733, the same twenty persons were again in nomination; but Pitkin's popularity and consequent increased number of votes advanced him from the twentieth to the sixteenth position on the list. The next year he advanced one step further to the fifteenth position on the list of those placed in formal nomination by the votes of the freemen. At this election, April 1734, two who had been assistants for many years

and were in nomination failed of re-election, and Pitkin once again advanced two places on the list to the thirteenth position, being elected an assistant, the eleventh in order of arrangement of the twelve who with the governor and deputy governor composed the Upper House of the General Assembly. He was at the same time elected one of the representatives from the town of Hartford; but naturally preferred to occupy the more prominent position of a member of the Upper House. He was now forty years of age, and had served as a representative from Hartford for six years.

From this time he was continued as an assistant by successive re-elections. His advancement towards the head of the list of assistants was steady but at no time spectacular; being caused in each instance by the failure of some one above him to achieve re-election. Upon the election of Thomas Fitch as governor in 1754, Pitkin was elected deputy governor, thus advancing from fourth to second place in the list of those who composed the Upper House, and was continued in that office during the whole term of Fitch's governorship. When in May 1766 the votes for governor were counted it was found that Fitch, although the formal nominee for governor, had failed of re-election, and that Pitkin had been elected in his stead. He was continued in the office until his death three and one half years later.

It was undoubtedly Pitkin's firm attitude in favor of the political rights of the colonies, and his opposition to the endeavors of the Home Government to rule over the colonies with a firmer hand than heretofore, that gave him the popularity which resulted in his election to the governorship. When Governor Fitch on October 31, 1765 called together his Council and took the required oath to administer the Stamp Act before the four members* who were willing to administer it to him, the other members having withdrawn or taking no part in its administration, he sealed his political future. Whether or not Deputy Governor William Pitkin met with the Council on that occasion we

* Ebenezer Silliman, John Chester, Benjamin Hall and Jabez Hamlin.

have no certain knowledge; but, his official position making him a member, it is a reasonable assumption that he was present. Before the date of this taking of the oath by Governor Fitch the freemen had already cast their ballots for the twenty who were to be placed in nomination for election the following spring, the resulting vote had been announced and the names placed in formal nomination. The list was practically the same as that of the previous year, the only changes being due to the death of one of the members of the Council and the dropping of another who had never achieved election, with the consequent addition of two new names at the foot of the list. This formal renomination of those who later had favored the obnoxious Stamp Act was contrary to the sentiments of the majority of Connecticut freemen. Consequently on March 25, 1766, three weeks before the day for voting in the spring election, a "General meeting of the Delegates of the Sons of Liberty, from a great majority of the towns,"* was held at Hartford. At this meeting, fearing that "should they run upon different Men, the Persons desired might not be elected, by the Freemen," a selection was made for governor and deputy governor for whom it was "agreed that most of the Freemen would vote." While the names selected do not appear to have been publicly announced, there can be no question but that Deputy Governor William Pitkin was the selection for the post of governor, and to this office he was elected in place of Governor Fitch the formal candidate. Pitkin's majority at this election was so great that the votes were not counted. Fitch however retained a considerable degree of popularity; for at the succeeding election, in 1767, with Pitkin as the formal nominee, Fitch's vote for governor was practically three-fourths that of Pitkin's.

Pitkin's salary as deputy governor was at first £33 semi-annually. In May 1760 an additional £10 was voted him for extraordinary services; and after that time the

**Jared Ingersoll* by Lawrence H. Gipson, page 218.

grant was raised to £50 semi-annually. As governor he was granted £150 pounds semi-annually.

Pitkin's personality and character can be no better described than by the following quotation and abstract: "In all which [offices] - - - he conducted to the very general Acceptance, and public Approbation; well filling and adorning his Station. He well understood, and carefully apply'd himself to the Duties of his Place, and was an hearty Friend to civil and religious Liberty — to this government, and laboured to the utmost, to promote it's best Interest. As his judgment was sound and his Integrity unimpeach'd, so his Piety was unaffected and conspicuous, and his Stability firm, and unshaken. He truly scattered away Evil with his Eye, and made it ashamed with his Presence, and to serve the public, and be beneficial to all as he had Opportunity was his Business and Delight. In short, he was an Example of universal Goodness in all Relations. And his character was very amiable in private as well as public Life. Eminent for Probity, Temperance, Patience in well-doing, and Public-spiritedness. Courteous and obliging; of easy Access, and given to Hospitality; in whom the Gentleman, Christian, and good Ruler, were happily united. And as he lived, so he died, with Calmness and Composure, in the full Assurance of Faith, and has doubtless received the Plaudit of his Lord, and entered into his Joys."*

"He was a Christian throughout — a constant devout attender on public worship — His greatest ambition was to do good — he was faithful, remarkably discreet, prudent, meek, humble, patient — a most desirable neighbour and friend — His conversation pleasant, but becomingly grave and serious — The various and important stages and offices he pass'd through in public life - - - in all which he well acquitted himself, passing through them with unblemished integrity and honor — To sum up all; he was a gentleman of good accomplishments and manly sense; of real solid piety, unshaken stedfastness and amiable disposition, a

*The *Connecticut Courant*, Hartford, Oct. 9, 1769.

warm and ardent lover of his God, his King, and his Country; and may be stiled a truly excellent man, and a good Governor, without the least suspicion of flattery." *

A table monument to his memory in the East Hartford burying ground bears the following inscription: —

Here lieth Interr'd the Body of the
Honorable William Pitkin Esq^r.
late Governor of the Colony of Connecticut
To the God of Nature indebted for all his Talents
for whose Glory he Aimed to Imploy them
In Religion without Affectation
Chearfull Humble and Temperate
Zealous and bold for the Truth
Faithfull in Distributing Justice
Scattering away Evil with his Eye
An Example of Christian Virtues
A Patron of his Country
A Benefactor to the Poor
A Tender Parent & Faithfull Friend
Twelve Years he presided in the Superior Court
and three Years and an half Governor in Chief
after serving his Generation by the Will of God
with Calmness and serenity fell on sleep
the 1st day of October A. D: 1769
in the 76 year of his Age
Walk Thoughtfull on that solemn shore
of that Vast Ocean thou art soon to pass

*The ruler's duty and honor, in serving | his generation; and his dismission by | death, and entering into peace: | A | Sermon, | occasioned by the | Much Lamented Death | of | The Honorable | William Pitkin, Esq; | Governor of the Colony of Connecticut, | Who departed this Life, | October 1st, 1769: | preached at | His Mournful Interment, | October 3d. | By Eliphalet Williams, V. D. M. | At East-Hartford. | [Five lines of Scripture.] Hartford: | Printed by Green & Watson, 1770. | 16 mo.; 1 folio, 33 pages.

PITKIN PAPERS.

DUKE OF RICHMOND TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

WHITEHALL May 23d 1766.

Gentlemen,

The King having been pleased to appoint me Secretary of State for the Southern Department, & to deliver the Seals of the Northern to Mr Secretary Conway, I shall, for the future, have the Pleasure of your Correspondence, and You may depend upon my Punctuality in laying Your Letters, as they shall arrive, before the King, & transmitting to You such Instructions as His Majesty may think proper to be given You, from Time to Time, for the Direction of Your Conduct in all such Cases as may require them.

I am with great Truth & Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
humble Servant
RICHMOND. &c.

Govr & Company of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] Letter from the Earl of Richmond Secretary of State May 23 1766 Recd 1st of Septr

JABEZ SWIFT TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

To the Honble William Pitkin Esqr Govr & Commander in Chief of His Majesties Colony of Connecticut in New England the Memorial of Jabez Swift of Kent in the County of Litchfield in sd Colony Overseer of the Indians call'd the Scatecook Indians in sd Kent humbly sheweth.

That by the wholesome Laws & Regulations of this Governmt to that purpose made he is Enabled in a very good degree to prevent the sd Indians from Obtaining spirituous Liquors to which they are excessively addicted,

Whereby a good foundation is laid for Civilizing & Christianizing the s^d^ Indians, & in Time rendering them useful Members of Society. But Nevertheless these good Ends are in emminent Danger of being prevented, and other fatal Effects will no doubt Ensue from a late Practice of divers People Inholders & others in the Province of N York (upon which the s^d^ Indians Border) of selling & delivering without any restraint all kinds of Spirituous Liquors to s^d^ Indians, whereby the s^d^ Indians are kept in an almost Continual State of Intoxication are prevented from pursuing any of the useful Imployments of Husbandry or other kinds of Labour, & are frequently Guilty of great disorders violences & Outrages. To prevent which y^r^ Mem^t^ humbly prays y^r^ Hon^r^ to make such Effectual Representation of the Matters afores^d^ to His Excellency S^r^ Henry Moor Gov^r^ & Commander in Chief of s^d^ Province of New York as that by his Interposition the s^d^ Illegal & pernicious Practice may be Prevented and Peace & good Order restored amongst s^d^ Indians, and y^r^ Mem^t^ as in Duty Bound will ever pray &c

JABEZ SWIFT.

Dated at HARTFORD May 24^th^ 1766.

[Indorsed] Jabez Swift Memorial May 1766

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

To the Hon^ble^ General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut Now Setting at Hartford

We Y^r^ Hon^rs^ Committee Appointed to Consider of & prepare an humble dutiful & loyal Address to his Majesty expressive of the filial Duty Gratitude & satisfaction of the Gov^r^ & Company of this Colony, on Occasion of the happy Repeal of the late Stamp Act; and also of any other grateful Returns to be made to the Friends of the British Colonies in America on Occasion of the late Interesting & Important Occurrances in the British Parliament &c beg leave to Report it as our Opinion — That this Honourable Assembly do not seem to be Possess'd at present, of all the Materials and Intelligence which are Expedient, & may be abso-

lutely Necessary, in Order to the preparing & finishing such Address, in a decent & proper Manner; that therefore the same be Omitted for the present; and that a Committee be Appointed Directed & Authorised, to Assist and Advise his Hon^r the Gov^r, in preparing & Compleating (as soon as it may Conveniently be done) such Address's, as they shall Judge Expedient & Proper, on this Joyful & happy Event; the same to be sign'd & forwarded by his Hon^r the Gov^r, in the Name, & on the behalf of this Corporation.

And as to the grateful Returns to be made to the Friends of America in Britain, y^r Committee are of Opinion — That his Hon^r the Gov^r be desired, to Return the most Ardent & grateful Thanks of this Assembly, to all those, who have distinguish'd themselves as the Friends & Advocates of the British Colonies in America, on the late Important Occasion, whether as Members of the British Parliament, or otherways.

Signed ℔ Order
JON^TH TRUMBULL

HARTFORD May 28^th 1766.

In the upper House

The foregoing Report of the Com^tee is accepted and approved Test GEORGE WYLLYS Secret.

Concur'd in y^e lower House

in accepting &c this Report

Test W^M WILLIAMS Clerk

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

In the Upper House

His Hon^r The Deputy Gov^r, Eliphalet Dyer, Roger Sherman & W^m Sam^l Johnson Esq^rs are Appointed a Committee to Join such Gent^n as the Lower House shall Appoint to Consider of and prepare an humble dutiful & loyal Address to his Majesty Expressive of the most filial Duty Gratitude & Satisfaction of The Gov^r & Company of this Colony on Occasion of the beneficial Repeal of the late Act of Parliament for Granting & Applying certain Stamp

Duties in America And also to Consider of any other gratiful Returns to be made to the Friends of the British Colonies in America, who have shewn themselves Patriotic Advocates for the Restoration of Peace to the Colonies Union, Trade, & reciprocal Advantages to them & to us, That Uninterrupted Mutual Affection may continue between Great Britain & her Colonies to the latest Ages.

Test GEORGE WYLLYS Secret

In the lower House

Mr Ledyard, Majr Elderkin, Mr Wolcott, Mr Tracy, Mr Miller, Cap Fitch & Cap Jno Williams, are joined to ye Comtee above named, for ye purpose aforesd.

Test WM WILLIAMS Clerk

SIR HENRY MOORE TO WILLIAM PITKIN

NEW YORK 3d June 1766.

Sir,

I have here inclosed to your Excellency a Proclamation lately issued in this Province for apprehending certain Persons whose Names are therein mentioned. They have now added Murder to the other Crimes they stand charged with, and as they have been pursued by a Military as well as Civil Force and it is apprehended they have been obliged to quit the Province, It is hoped that in Case any of them should have taken Refuge in the Province under your Command, that your Excellency will give the necessary Orders to have them apprehended & secured that they may be brought to condign Punishment.

I have the Honor to be with great Regard

Sir, Your most obedient
and humble Servant

H: MOORE

His Excellency Wm PITKIN Esqr

[Indorsed] Letter from Sr Henry Moore Jan. 3d 1766

WILLIAM PITKIN TO SIR HENRY MOORE.

HARTFORD 4th June 1766.

Sr

Have received Information from a Guardian of The Scatecook Indians in Kent within the Colony of Connecticut bordering on your Province, that by the Laws of this Colony he is in a good Measure able to prevent their unreasonable Use of Spirituous Liquors (to which they are excessively addicted) whereby a good Foundation is laid for Civilizing and Christianizing them; But from a late Practice of divers People Inholders and others in your Province, selling to sd Indians all kinds of such Liquors without Restraint, they are put and kept almost continually in a State of Intoxication, which prevents their usefull Employments, and is often attended with violent Disorders &c. The fatal Effects of such Practices will prove Subversive of all the Care taken of sd Indians by this Colony to form them usefull Inhabitants &c. Your Excellencys well known Character gives me Assurance that proper Care will be speedily taken to prevent such Conduct in your Province for the Future.

Have the Honour Sr to be
your most Obedient Humble Servt
WM PITKIN

His Excellency Sr HENRY MOORE Baronet &c.
[Indorsed] Govr Pitkin June 4th 1766.

RICHARD JACKSON TO THOMAS FITCH.*

5 June 1766

Sir

The Parliament will probably rise tomorrow, after having passed several Acts for the ease & accomodation of the Colonies, as well as for quieting the Disturbances that have been occasioned there, by fears & apprehensions, that I hope are now removed. Those Laws when printed I will

*It was not until September that Mr. Jackson learned of the election of Mr. Pitkin to the governorship, so that this letter was undoubtedly addressed to Gov. Fitch.

transmit, in the mean time I shall only say that they are for lowering the Duty on Molosses to 1d ℔ Gallon, for permitting the Warehousing of French Sugar without Duty, for erecting free ports in Dominique & Jamaica, for indemnifying those who have not complied with ye Stamp Act, which was before repealed.

The Accounts between the Colony & myself as stated in my Abstract & as transmitted by your Letters to me tally exactly, except that it appears to me that I am to have Credit for £1 less than you give me Credit for, & for 5s more, the former an Error you speak of in casting a Column in one of the lists, the latter a sum paid for noting a Bill, left unpaid by Mr Ingersol of a former year. These Aberations with ye sum of ¼d not charged because not paid bring your Balance to mine £9,263 4s 9d

But it is to be observed that even this Balance is rather an Estimate, because there was at that time a small sum due to Mr Colman for Business done in ye Cause against Sherwood & Corbyn, which I had computed in one of my Estimates transmitted at £2 in another as £2 2s & which he says will be 4 or £5 & the suit with ye Mohegin Indians had then occasioned some Expences & now occasions a great deal, & on ye other hand if the 2 or 3 small Bills resting unpaid shd not come in, I shall likewise account for their Amounts over & above this Balance. I am Sir with great Regard

Yr most Obedt
& most hble sert
RD JACKSON

[Indorsed] Letter from Mr Agent Jackson June 5th 1766
Recd 9th of September

WILLIAM PITKIN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Hartford 9th June 1766

Sr

Saturday last Recd a letter from Mr Secretary Conway of the 31st of March, in which he inclosd an Act of Parliament for Repealings the Stamp Act, have Sent for the

Com^tee appointed by the Assembly to Assist in forming proper Adress's &c to Meet at Hartford Thursday Morning Next when I Expect to wait on your Honor

Am S^r with great Regard
your very Humble Ser^t
W^M PITKIN

Hon^ble Jon^th Trumbull Esq^r

[Superscribed] To The Hon^ble Jon^th Trumbull Esq^r at Lebanon

[Indorsed] Gov^r Pitkin's Letter June 9^th 1766

EARL OF RICHMOND TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Whitehall 12^th June 1766.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of transmitting to you herewith inclosed a printed Copy of an Act of parliament, entitled, "An Act for indemnifying Persons who have incurred certain Penalties by an Act of the last Session of Parliament, for granting certain Stamp Duties in the British Colonies & plantations in America &c^a" as also Copy of an other Act, "for opening & establishing certain ports in the Islands of Jamaica and Dominica, for the more free Importation & Exportation of certain Goods & Merchandizes" & other Purposes therein set forth.

Thus You see, Gentlemen, that not only the greatest Attention has been shewn to His Majesty's American Subjects, by the Repeal of an Act, which they had complained of, but, those Grievances in Trade, which seemed to be the first & chief Object or their Uneasiness, have been taken into the most minute Consideration, & such Regulations have been established, as will, it is hoped, restore the Trade of America, not only to its former flourishing State, but be the Means of greatly increasing & improving it to the Conveniency & Advantage of all His Majesty's Subjects in every part of His Dominions.

With these Views have these Regulations been enacted, & from the best Enquiries into the Commerce of America,

it is more than probable that very salutary Effects will answer the Intentions.

Such manifest Concern and tender Regard shewn by His Majesty, and His Parliament, for the true Happiness and prosperity of the Colonies and Plantations, cannot fail, I am persuaded, to produce, on their part, suitable Sentiments of Duty, Respect, & Gratitude to their King, and of Love & Attachment to their Mother Country.

I am, with great Truth & Regard
Gentlemen, Your most Obedient
humble Servant.
RICHMOND. &c:

Gov^r & Company of Connecticut

[Indorsed] Letter from [ ] Earl of Richmond 12th June 1766 Rec^d 1st of Sept^r

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

HARTFORD 18th June 1766

S^r

Your Connection with the Colony of Connecticut renders it necessary that you should be informed that I have the Honor of serving as Governor, and more especially at this Time, that the Bills ordered by the General Assembly to be drawn by me for part of the Colony's Monies in your Hands, may be duely Honor'd.

I have receiv'd from the late Governor Fitch sundry of your Letters with Copies of his Answers, which makes it needles for me very particularly to Notice.

I have Receiv'd from the Secretary of State an Act of Parliament for Repealing the Stamp Act &c which Occasions universal Joy, and have no Doubt but those true Friends to America, who have so generously Interested themselves in the Behalf of the Colonies as to pledge their Credit, for their future good Conduct, and Loyalty, will be fully convinc'd that the good Opinion they have conceiv'd of the People of this Government is founded on principles of Truth and Justice. I shall soon have Occasion to write

further Relative to our publick Affairs, in the Mean Time have only to recommend the Continuance of yr Attention to every Object in which the Colony is Interested.

I am Sr with great Regard

Your most obedient & very Humble Servnt

WM PITKIN

To Richard Jackson Esqr &c

[Indorsed] Letter to Richd Jackson Esqr 18 June 1766 Duplicate Sent

JOHN POWNALL TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Whitehall June 19. 1766.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations to transmit to you a printed Copy of each of the several Acts passed in the last Session of Parliament which relate to America. I am,

Gentlemen, your most obedient & most humble Servant,

JOHN POWNALL

Govr & Co of Connecticut.

RICHARD JACKSON TO THOMAS FITCH.

21 June 1766

Sir

Although it is some time since I had the pleasure of hearing from you, & I have more than once explained the little variation between your Account & mine, I can not help taking this Opportunity of writing a few lines. I have before observed that my Accounts were in general intended as Estimates & therefore included a sum due to Mr Coleman not paid as they do also small Bills of Exchange to the amount of £50, ye debt extimated to be due to Mr Coleman differing 2s has occasioned that difference between 2 of my Accts, but ye only difference between your Account & that which I have called an Abstract, is that I have taken Credit on ye Account of Bills paid 1f less ye error you mention to

have occurred in casting, & for ¼ less as we do not pay less than 1d but have taken Credit for 5s more which was paid for noting one of ye Bills Mr Ingersol left unpaid, these sums added & deducted I believe make our Accts tally to ¼ a precision I agree with you to be necessary as it is a proof there is no greater Error.

I have before observed that one of those Bills likewise amounts to 9d more than Mr Ingersols Acct which though I have not taken Credit for I have paid, & may therefore if not observed create a difficulty. Few People are more accurate yn I am in Accounts when at leisure, but the fullest Employment & greatest Anxiety I ever went through for the space of 9 Months have had an Effect upon my Constitution which I know not when I shall get rid of: much the greater part of every day that I have lived since November have been employed in my attendance in Parliament on Ministers of State or other Persons that I thought capable of serving (I wont say the Colony but) ye British Nation. I mean not to magnify my own services I am sensible they amount to very little & that ye present state of things is owing to Influence & Authority of Opinions of Men infinitely superior to me. I mean only to excuse my writing little & perhaps confusedly. I have ye pleasure to say that the Friends of America, & who in [ ] so, are the friends of Britain are many.

We are preparing every thing for ye hearing the Mohegin Cause, I have omitted nothing that I thought could serve ye Colony.

I shall transmit ye Act for repealing ye Stamp Act & that for regulating ye Trade of America by lowering ye Molasses Duty &c I am Sir

with the most perfect Esteem
Yr most Obedt
& most hble Sert
RD JACKSON

[Indorsed] Letter from Mr Agent Jackson 21st of June 1766
Recd 9th of Septr

ORDER IN COUNCIL.

At the Council Chamber Whitehall the 8th of July 1766.

By the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council for hearing Appeals from the Plantations.

Whereas the Lords of the Committee of Council for hearing Appeals from the Plantations, thought proper by their order of the 18th of August 1756, to direct that the appeal of Old John Uncas Young John Uncas & other Indians (which said Old John Uncas is by Birthright the Rightful Sachem, and the other appellants are the greater part of the Tribe of the Mohegan Indians who Immemorially have been Settled in and Intitled to a large Tract of Land on the Continent of America, lying within the Limits which are now called his Majesties Colony of Connecticut) on the behalf of themselves and the rest of their Tribe, by John Mason and Samuel Mason Gentlemen the Trustees for and Guardians for the said Tribe, from a Decree made by the Commissioners of Review, on the 16th of August 1743 (in relation to the right to some Lands Claimed by the said Indians within the limits of the said Colony of Connecticut) in favour of the Governor and Company of the said Colony and George Richards Esqr Samuel Leffingwell Junior, William Whiting, James Harris, John Noble, Thomas Collett, Samuel Fox Ezekiel Fox Abner Avery Robert Denison George Lefevours David Jewett Isaac Hammond Noah Hammond, John Copp, Thomas Minor, Samuel Copp, Jonathan Harris, William Minor, Labeus Harris, James Harris Junior, David Copp, Jonathan Copp, Jason Allen Samuel Allen, George Minor, Christopher Darrow John Minor, Joseph Atwell Robert Chapman Joshua Baker James Baker, James Otis, Daniel Rogers, John Richards, Junior Daniel Broton, George Richards Junior Peter Button, Isaac Thompson, Joseph Otis Junr Joshua Raymond Enq Philip Marsey, Gilbert Liley, Joseph Otis Esqr Ebenezer Rogers Samuel Avery William Vebber, John Vebber William Cascaddin Stephen Maples George Hill, John Hill Peter Wickwere, Abraham Avery Peregrine Gardiner Isarel Dodge Gideon

Baker, Eleazer Chappel John Vebber Junr Stephen Gardiner Daniel Johnson Joseph Bradford Junior Adonijah Fitch and Daniel Fitch Possessor of Lands in Controversy in the North parish of New London in the said Colony of Connecticut Daniel Worthington Jonathan Kilbourn Josiah Rockwell Isaac Jones William Harris Jonathan Daniels Stephen Gardiner John Chapman Joseph Pumroy Noah Wells John Bulkley Esqr Jacob Loomis Broadhurst Bacon David Dodge Simon Tubbs Thomas Gustin Ichabod Wickwere Samuel Tozer Charles Bulkley Jabez Jones James Jones Israel Newton Robert Ransom James Newton Samuel Brown Daniel Chapman John Kelogg Joshua Jones Clement Daniels Samuel Dodge John Clark Oliver Bulkley David Johnson Roger Clark John Johnson Benjamin Rothbone, William Dickson Jonas Hamilton George Dolbeare Benjamin Thompson Ephraim ffoot John Roberts John Waters Ebenezer Day Elisha Pratt James Mun Daniel ffoot Alexander Clarke Dudley Wright Ephraim Little Daniel Clarke John Smith Mark Roberts Jonathan Wells Eliakem Hitchcock John Hitchcock Samuel Rogers Josiah ffoot Junr James Treadway Josiah Gates Joseph Sweet Nathaniel Williams Delierance Waters Elijah Worthington William Worthington John Holmes George Holmes Ichabod Randal Ebenezer Palmeter Peter Bulkley John Holmes Junr Samuel Loomis Daniel Clark Junior Nathaniel Otis Jonathan Kilburn Junr Noah Pumroy Nathaniel Kellogg John Wells, Joseph Wright Joseph Chamberlain, Ichabod Lord Philip Coverley Nathaniel ffoot Esqr Thos Wells Jonah Clarke William Marriner John Chamberlain James McCall John Adams Daniel Adams Samuel Day Elijah Johnson Benjamin Chamberlain Epiphrus Lord Samuel Fuller Jonathan Northum William Chamberlain Timothy Wright Peleg Chamberlain Noah Clarke Andrew Carrier Junr Aaron Fuller David Bigalou Freedom Chamberlain John Waters Abraham Day Benjamin Adams Job Stiles Joseph Cooke Benjamin Skinner Daniel Morgan and Michael Stewart Possessors of Lands in Controversy within the Township of Colchester in the said Colony of Connecticut John Gilbert

Christopher Wickwere Benjamin Williams Ephraim Harris Abraham Harding, John Perkins Daniel Lord Samuel Tubbs Jacob Bacon Junior Jasper Griffing Joseph Giddings Samuel Rudd, Benjamin Colt Thomas Giddings Henry Bennet Henry Bennet Junior Isaac Rouly Nathan Griffin and Joshua Giddings Possessors of Lands in Controversy within the Township of Lyme in the said Colony of Connecticut and Thomas Dunham Benjamin Beech Azariah Beech James Tillotson Richard Beech John Porter David Porter Junior James Stewart Jacob fford John Darby Samuel Negeus Obadiah White Jacob Orsbourn Samuel Chubb Giddon Chubb Joseph Skinner Joseph Kallogg Joseph Kallogg Junior Daniel Kallogg Benjamin Kneeland Junior John Chamberlain Daniel Jones John Chamberlain Junior Will^m Chamberlain John Beech Benjamin Skinner Junior Samuel Buel William Buel and Soloman Phelps Possessors of Lands in Controversy within the Township of Hebron in the said Colony of Connecticut should be heard before their Lordships on Thursday the 9^th^ of December 1756 and in regard no appearance had been Entered to the said Appeal for any of the said Respondents, Except for the Governor and Company of the said Colony of Connecticut, that a Summons should be affixed upon the Royal Exchange and elsewhere, in the usual manner to require the said Respondents the Possessors of the Lands in Controversy in the north Parish of New London and in the Townships of Colchester, Lyme and Hebron, in the said Colony of Connecticut forthwith to enter their Appearance thereto. And Whereas a Motion was this day made to their Lordships, on behalf of the Appellants Praying that the said Appeal might be revived against the Heirs and all others Claiming by from or under such of the said Respondents as are dead, and that a day might be Appointed to hear the same. Their Lordships are thereupon pleased to order that the said Appeal be accordingly revived against the Heirs and all other Claiming by from or under such of the said Respondents as are dead, without Prejudice to any objection that may be made to the appellants being now under the present Cir-

cumstances, Intitled to revive, and that the said Appeal be heard at the first meeting of this Committee in ffebruary next — whereof all parties concerned are to take Notice, and to come prepared to be heard by their Council Learned in the Law at the time aforementioned.

ROBERT WALPOLE.

EARL OF RICHMOND TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Circular to the Governors in America.

WHITEHALL 10th July 1766.

Sir,

I send you herewith inclosed an Act, entitled "an Act for repealing certain Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations, granted by several Acts of Parliament &c^a" and for granting other Duties instead thereof, which I make no doubt will be received and consider'd as a further Proof of the King & the Parliament's Attention to the Interests & Prosperity of His Majesty's American Subjects.

I am &c^a

RICHMOND. &c.

[Indorsed] Circular to the Governors in the West Indies and in North America. Whitehall, 10th July 1766. (Melasses Act.)

(Copies instead of Dup^tes went the 9th Aug^t)

Transmitting Copy of an Act for repealing certain Duties in the Colonies & for granting other Duties instead thereof.

SIR HENRY MOORE TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

FORT GEORGE NEW YORK 21st July 1766.

Sir

It being supposed upon the best Information that can be obtained that some of the Persons who were concern'd in the late Riots in this Colony, and have fled from Justice, have taken Refuge in Connecticut in the Towns of Danbury New fairfield or New Town; I take the Liberty to send your Excellency a List of their Names on the other Side,

and I make no doubt but you will be induced, from your Attention to the Peace, Good Order, and Advantage of the Colonies in general, to take the most necessary, speedy, & effectual Steps for apprehending & securing such of the said Rioters as may be found within the Province under your Command. I am with great Regard

Your Excellencys most Obedient
and humble Servant
H: MOORE

His Excellency William Pitkin Esq^{r}
Silas Washburne
Elisha Cole
Stephen Crane
Isaac Perry
Sam^{l} Munro Sen^{r}
Sam^{l} Munro Jun^{r}
Jabez Berry.

[Superscribed] On His Majestys Service To The Hon^{ble} W^{m} Pitkin Esq^{r} Governor of Connecticut

[Indorsed] Letter from S^{r} Henry Moore July 21st 1766

COMMISSIONERS FOR TRADE AND PLANTATIONS TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Whitehall Aug^{t} 1st 1766.

Gentlemen,

In pursuance of an Address of the House of Commons to His Majesty on the 27th of March last, and of His Majesty's Commands thereupon, signified to us by his Grace the Duke of Richmond in a Letter to us dated the 11th Ult., you are forthwith to prepare, and, as soon as possible, transmit to us, in order to be laid before the House of Commons in the next Session, a particular and exact Account of the several Manufactures, which have been set up and carried on within the Colony under your Government, since the Year 1734, and of the publick Encouragements, which have been given thereto.

You are also from Time to Time annually to transmit the like Account of any Manufactures, which shall be here-

after set up, and of the publick Encouragements, which shall be given thereto.

We are, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servants,
DARTMOUTH
ED: ELIOT
JOHN ROBERTS
WM FITZHERBERT
PALMERSTON

The Governor and Compy of Connecticutt.

[Indorsed] Letter from the Lords of Trade & Plantations Augst 1st 1766 Recd 10th Novr 1766

WILLIAM PITKIN TO SIR HENRY MOORE.

Hartford 4th August 1766

Sr

The Receipt of your Excellencys Letters of June and July which I hereby Acknowledge with Regard to those persons concerned in the late Riots in your Province taking refuge in this Colony am myself altogether Ignorant off if there be any Such I would inform your Excellency that the Legislature of this Colony long Since were Sensible of the ill consequences of permitting persons convicted of any Crime or flying from Justice into this Government have therefore Enacted a Law for Apprehending such persons when pursued by proper Authority from any other Province, the Justices of the Peace in their Respective Counties are Impowered to Examine and Enquire into the cause and if it appear that such person hath been Convicted or Escaped or is flying from Justice or Prossecution he may be remanded back and delivered to the Authority or officer from whom such Escape is made that the offender may be brought to condign punishment. I believe your Excellency will conclude from the Above recital that full Provission is already made by said Act to apprehend Said offenders and doubt not but all proper Assistance will be afforded by the executive Authority upon due application to them

I am Sr your most Obedient and very humble Servant

[Indorsed] Copy of a Letter to Sr Henry Moore August 4th 1766

WILLIAM PITKIN TO COMMISSIONERS OF THE TREASURY.

HARTFORD 4th August 1766

My Lords

I have the Favour of your Lordships Letter of the 5th of May last directed to the Governor of the Colony of Connecticut where I have the Honor to Preside I esteem myself bound to pay a ready and chearful Obedience to your Lordships Directions in giving proper & necessary Orders for returning and forwarding in the most Safe & Expeditious Manner the Stamp'd Parchment and Paper, refer'd to in your Letter if there were any in the Custody of any Person within my Jurisdiction.

That Intended for the Use of this Colony was deliver'd to the Care of the Respective Governors of New York and Boston, or to the Care of some other Person, within their Jurisdiction, and none of them ever taken or Receiv'd by any Governor Magistrate or any other person within this Government. If in future Time I shall know or can be advised of any such Parchment or Paper in this Colony, your Lordships may be Assured that proper and necessary Orders shall be given agreable to your Direction.

I am with great Esteem
your Lordships most obedⁿᵗ &
most Humˡᵉ Servᵛⁿᵗ
Wᴹ PITKIN

To The Lords Commissʳˢ of his Majesty's Treasury

[Indorsed] Copy of a Letter to the Lords of his Majestys Treasury Augᵗ 4th 1766

WILLIAM PITKIN TO HENRY SEYMOUR CONWAY.

HARTFORD 4th August 1766

Sr

I have the Honʳ of yours of the 31ᵗ of March last directed to the Goverⁿʳ & Company of the Colony of Connecticut in which I have the Honor at present to preside, and shall

take the earliest Oppertunaty to Communicate y^t & the several Copies of Acts of Parliament therewith Transmitted, to the General Assembly of the Colony.

It is impossible to express or describe the incredible Joy with which the People of this Country in General, as well as of this Colony in particular receiv'd the most agreeable News of the Repeal of the Stamp Act, and which they have express'd by every Token of Gladness that they could exhibit. All America have been waiting in the most anxious Suspence for the Decision of this great and most interesting Affair, have esteem'd it the very Crisis of their Fate; and are now full of the warmest Gratitude for the Grace and Goodness manifested to them. The Magnanimaty Moderation & Condescention, the Wisdom, Justice and Equity so signally display'd by his Majesty and Parliament, in Repealing this Act, have fill'd us with the sincerest Joy and the warmest Sentiments of respectfull Gratitude to his Majesty and the Parliament, and will without Doubt confirm us in the strongest Dispositions to a steady affectionate Loyalty to the King, and the tenderest Affection to our Mother Country. I am perfectly sensible of the indissoluble Union that there is between Great Britain and her Colonies, respecting their Interests, and that whatever Prejudices the one, must necessarily injure the other; and therefore ernestly hope that no Symptoms of Coldness or Dissatisfaction on any Ground whatever will now appear on the part of any of the Colonies, which may tend to Interrupt that Harmony so Essential to the Happiness and future Interests of both Countries. That nothing of so disagreable a Nature appears in this Colony, I can with great pleasure assure you, everything here wears the Face of decent Joy and humble Gratitude.

Nothing coul add more to the great satisfaction we feel for the Indulgence already shewn to us than the Assurance you are pleased to give us, that the American Trade Laws are become the immediate Object of Parliament, and that with equal Magnanimaty Clemency and Justice they are determined to give to the Trade and Interests of America

every Relief which our real Circumstances Demand or Admit. This will be wisely to perfect the good Work so happily begun, & to establish the Union and Interests of Great Britain & America upon a Basis that can never be shaken. The Regulations upon the Importation of forreign Molasses Sugars &ca are particularly grievous to this Colony whose Trade consists chiefly of Articles fit only for the West India Market. Those Regulations have in fact been a principle Means of our Poverty and Inability to Discharge our Debts with the American Trader and the British Merchant; have really in a Manner Stagnated all Business among us, and Compell'd the people as far as possible to desist from the purchase and Consumption of British Manufactures. An Alteration of the Laws in this particular would therefore give us a most sensible Relief in our present Scituation, and be receiv'd with the greatest Gratitude & Satisfaction.

I am particularly happy in being able to Acquaint you that no Violences or Outrages upon private Property have been committed in this Colony for which any Compensation can be expected or required.

By Desire of the General Assembly (who were together when the Inteligence of the Repeal first arrived) but are now enjoying a Recess) I have Signed and transmitted an humble Address to his Majesty to express the sincere Joy and Gratitude of this Corporation upon this Occasion, which I humbly Hope his Majesty of his paternal Goodness & Condescention will be graciously pleas'd to accept, and the Colony will be greatly obliged to you, for giving it a regular and favourable Introduction to the Throne.

I have it also in Charge to assure you that the Colony have the deepest Sense of Gratitude to you, and all others of his Majesty's Ministers for the great and good Part you have taken in this most important Affair. The Remembrance of your wise & admirable Conduct upon this Occasion, and of your Tenderness and Concern for the Colonies, will continue here to the latest Posteraty, and your Names

be bless'd by *Millions* in every Generation. I have the Honr to be with the greatest Esteem & Respect.

Sr, Your most obedient
& most humble Servant
WM PITKIN

To The Right Honble Henry S. Conway one of his Majestys principle Secretaries of State

[Indorsed] Govr Gitkin. Connecticut 4 Aug: 1766 R 3d Octr

CONNECTICUT'S ADDRESS TO THE KING.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty

The humble Address of the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut in New England in America

Most gracious Sovereign

Wee the Governor and Company of your Majestys English Colony of Connecticut, in New England, in America; Inspired with the warmest Sentiments of Layalty and Obedience, to your gracious Majesty; beg leave with Humility to approach your royal Presence, with our unanimous Acknowledgments of the innumerable Benefits we enjoy, under your most Auspicious Reign, And Particularly, to return our gratefull Tribute, of humble and hearty Thanks to your Majesty, for giving your royal Assent, to An Act, for repealing a late Act of the Parliament of Great Britain; for granting and applying certain Stamp Duties in the Colonies; and Plantations in America: An Act which had filled your faithfull Subjects in these Colonies with the deepest Concern.

Your Majestys Wisdom and Clemency, so signally displayed, on this interesting Occasion, hath hapily restored Tranquility; filled our Hearts with joy and Gladness; and diffused universal Felicity throughout all your Majestys American Dominions; has inexpressibly endeared your sacred Persen, to your Loyal and dutifull subjects in this Colony; confirmed our Confidence, in the Justice and Good-

ness, of the August Legislature of great Britain; and filld us with the most cordial and respectfull Gratitude and affection to our Mother Country.

Our Subjection to your Majesty's Government, and Connection with Great Britain; We have always esteemed the Safety and Hapiness of this Country; and Wee rejoice, in the rising Prospect, that under your Majestys Wise mild and Auspicious Reign, a permanant and harmonious Intercourse, mutually beneficial, and Advantagious, may be established between Great Britain and her Colonies, whereby the Interest of both Countries, (on which the Glory, safety, and Hapiness, of the whole Empire, so much depends) will be greatly promoted.

A steady unshaken Layalty, Fidelity, and warm Devotion, to your Majesty, and your royal Progenetors of the illustreus House of Hannover, have ever been, the Boast of this Colony, and under their Auspecious Protection, Wee have enjoyed the Rights and Liberties, which from small beginnings, have under God, been the means of rendering this Colony, a Valuable part of your Majestys Dominions. These and other signal Favours and Blessings, enjoyed by us, under your Majestys Wise and Righteous Government: and especily the Condescention of our most gracious King, on the late important Occasion, demand from us, the most sincere Thankfullness, and praise to God the supreme Auther of all Good, and disposer of all Events as well as the liveliest Sentiments of Gratitude and Loyalty to your Majesty.

With minds impressed with the deepest sense of your Majestys emenent Wisdom, and Goodness; of the Abilities, and Patriot Spirit of your Ministers, and the Magnanimity, Prudence and Equity of those who compose the British Legislature, and animated by the happy Prospect that the Trade of America in Particular, as well as the British Comerce in general, may be established upon the most Solid Foundation, and extensive Plan of Utility, Wee shall steadily pursue such Measures, as shall most effectually tend to Support the Dignity of your Majestys Government in this

Colony, and Contribute to the General Emolument and Glory of the British Empire.

Sensible of the great Hapiness we enjoy, under your Majestys most Wise and Equitable Government, and encouraged by the many gracious Asurances, and convincing Proofs, given by your Majesty; of your kind, and benevolent Attention, to all your faithfull Subjects, even the most remote! permit us most gracious Sovereign to recomend your Colony of Connecticut, to your paternal Care, and kind Protection.

May your Majesty, with increasing Felicity, and Glory, continue to a far distant Period, to fill and Adorn the Throne of your Illustreus Ancestors, and your royal Progeny in long succession Reign over a Free, gratefull, and happy People, in Europe and America, with Dignity and renown to the latest Ages.

Wee are, may it please your Majesty your Majesty's most Dutifull, Loyal and Obedient Subjects, The Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut

WM PITKIN GOVERNR

July, 1766.

[Indorsed] Address of the Govr & Company of Connecticut In Govr Gitkin's, of the 4th Augt 1766.

CONNECTICUT'S ADDRESS TO THE KING.*

Wee Your Majesties Most Dutiful & Loyal Subjects the Govr & Company of Your Majs English Colony of Connectt in New England in America

beg leave humbly to lay at your Majs Feet our Most Thankfull Acknowledgment for the Paternal care and Protection vouchsafd by your Majesty to your People in every part of Your Majs Dominions: Particularly for that Your Majesty was pleasd to give Your Royal Assent to a late Act of the Parliament of Great Brittain Repealing a Certain Act laying Stamp Duty on the Colonies and plantations in

* This and the document next following appear to be drafts of an Address to the King which were submitted and rejected in favor of the Address (next preceding) which was approved and sent under date of July 1766.

America, by which Instance of your Majs Goodness the People in these Colonies & Plantations are Relieved from a great and heavy Burden: and Enabled to carry on and promote their trade and Commerce with great Brittain to great advantage: This favour Wee humbly Esteem an Additional proof: that your Majesty has the true interest of Your People Senserely at heart.

Wee Assure your Majesty that wee bear true & Faithful Allegence to Your Majesty as our true and lawfull Sovereign And Esteem ourselves Under the most Indispensible Obligations to Exert the utmost of our Power to Support Honour & Reverence the Best of Kings — may every Animosity Cease: all Obstructions to trade & Commerce be Removd the Peace of the nation Maintaind & supported upon the Solid Foundation of truth & Justice: may the Greatest Blessings Decend on Your Majs Royal Person Family & Government: May the Life of Your Majesty be Continued the Crown fixed on Your Royal head long Flourish: and may there Never want one of your Majesties Royal House to Sway the British Scepter to the latest Generation [Indorsed] Address to the King

CONNECTICUT'S ADDRESS TO THE KING.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty

The humble Address of the Governor & Company of the English Colony of Connecticut in New England in America.

Most Gracious Sovereign

Your Majestys most faithful dutiful & Loyal Subjects the Governor & Company of your Majestys English Colony of Connecticut in New England in General Court Assembled, With all Humility beg leave to approach your Royal presence and with the most perfect Sincerity & truth to Express the inmost Sentiments of our Hearts while we profess & declare our willing Subjection & dutiful affectionate & Loyalty to your Majesty, our unbounded Love & most Ardent and intense affection to your majestys

Sacred person & family among the many rich Blessings & Choice favours conferred on the British Nation & its dependencies by his Almighty Providence whose is the Kingdom & the Power, we have ever reckoned in the principal Rank, that happy & Glorious event the Accession of your renowned & Illustrious Ancester the first Immortal George to the Imperial Crown of Great Brittain. Great & happy as was that Important event it has Greatened with every revolving Day, which has exhibited in that Royal Line, fresh Instances of Such exalted wisdom, virtue & Benevolence, in glorious Assemblage, as to add radient Lustre to the brightest Crown, we behold with rapture & Delight the greatest earthly Crown (exchanged by your Illustrious Progenitors for one immortal) fixed on your Sacred head; we view with the most Pleasing & heart felt Sentiments of Joy & pleasure, those excellent virtues & rare Accomplishments which have eminently distinguished the princes of your Illustrious House, united & centred in your Royal Bosom with most devout gratitude to the King of Kings, with most humble & Sincere acknowlegments to his greatest vicegerent on Earth, we behold in your Majesty the Guardian Protector & Ornament of that most valuable of all Blessings, the Protest[t] Religion, the August & mighty monarch, the Father of his people & the Friend of Mankind, That gracious Sovereign who has been pleased to declare that the peculiar happiness of his Life would ever consist in promoting the welfare of his Loyal People, that the civil & religious Rights of his loving Subjects were equally dear to him with the most valuable Prerogatives of his Crown, & expressed & Shewn an unbounded tenderness & concern for the welfare, Prosperity & Liberties of all his Subjects; these exalted & Godlike Qualities & Sentiments have inexpressibly endeared your Majesty's person to your Loyal & Dutiful Subjects of this Colony who were ever from Inclination as well as Duty inviolably Attached to the principles (for the Sake of the consequences) of the glorious revolution. And now great Sir in a very especial Manner we humbly beg permission to recognize the late Illustrious

display of the inherent goodness of your Majesty's Royal Heart in lending a gracious Ear to the Complaints of your dutiful & loving Subjects at this remote distance from the Throne, in easing them of the heavy Burthens & distresses to wᶜ they were Subjected by a late Act of your Majestys Parliamᵗ for Granting & Applying certain Stamp Duties in the Brittish Colonies & Plantations in America &c. by giving Your Royal Approbation of & Assent to the repeal of that Act, hereby yʳ Majesty has added one more irrefragable, evidence to the Sacred truth of your Royal Declaration, and given another Demonstration of that Paternal Affection & tenderness which Glows in Your Royal Mind towards all your happy Subjects inhabiting these remote parts of your Majesty's widely extended Dominions, hereby our Gracious Sovereign has Gained the Complete Triumph, & Securely fixed his Empire in the hearts of his ever loyal Subjects of this Colony. Herein your Majestys Royal wisdom, Justice condescension Clemency & every virtue which can endear the best of Kings to the most affectionate People, appear & Shine with equal & unrivalled Lustre. Penetrated with the deepest Sense of your unbounded tenderness, for the Liberty, prosperity & happiness of your American Subjects, we beg your Majesty to Accept our most Dutiful, humble & Ardent Thanks, while we are at a loss for words to express half the grateful Sentiments we feel on this happy Occassion.

We humbly beg leave to add, that as divine Providence has placed us at So great a distance from the Throne that we have Seldom Access to the presence of our Beloved Monarch wee are liable to & are perhaps, Misrepresented & Slandered to your Majesty, and wrong apprehensions concerning your Colonies Entertained by some of your Subjects, and would therefore beg leave to Assure your Majesty that from principles of Dutiful Attachment to your Majestys person & Government, we detest & abhor all manner of Riots & Disorders & every Species of conduct inconsistent with perfect Loyalty, Order & Good Government, That this Instance of your Royal Moderation & Goodness will not be

lost or thrown away upon us, but will tend to encrease our respect to the Dignity of the Crown as it leaves us no room to Doubt but righteousness & Mercy are partners of the Throne. It will add Dignity & weight, to the High Authority of the Brittish Legislature as it affords another Argument, that, that August Body will not wantonly exercise its power.' It will also Augment the warmth of our affection to our Mother Country and render us the more willing (as has ever been the Case) to yield all our little Savings to her Emolument, and if it were possible would increase their Dutiful Affection Zeal and attachment to your Sacred person & Family, the Subject of whose most devout & constant Prayer to the high disposer of all events, is, that so long as the Sun & Moon Shall endure, there may not bee wanting one of the Illustrious House of Hanover to Sit on the Brittish Throne & Sway its Sceptre in Righteousness. [Indorsed] An Address to the King

SIR HENRY MOORE TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

FORT GEORGE NEW YORK 6 August 1766.

Sir,

It appearing by fresh Informations just now received from the Court now sitting at Poughkepsie that the Persons named on the other side were principally concern'd in the late Riots, and are now fled from Justice and are harbour'd in the Town of Danbury within your Colony, I must now repeat the Request I sometime since made to your Excellency upon this Subject, that Orders may be issued for securing them and bringing them to Justice. I am with great Regard

Sir, Your most obedient
humble Servant
H: MOORE

His Excellency Wm PITKIN Esqr

Silas Washburn of the South Precinct in Dutchess County Blacksmith

James Seard of the same Place, Yeoman

Elisha Cole of the same Place Miller

Isaac Perry of the same Place Yeoman
Stephen Crane of the same Place Blacksmith
Sam[l] Munroe jun[r] of the same Place Yeoman
Micah Vail of Beckman's Precinct Yeoman.

[Indorsed] Letter from Sir Henry Moore 6[th] Aug[st] Rec[d] 11[th] of August 1766

EARL OF SHELBURNE TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

WHITEHALL 9[th] Aug[t] 1766.

Gentlemen,

The King having been graciously pleased, upon the Resignation of the Duke of Richmond, to deliver to me the Seals for the Southern Department, I take the earliest Opportunity of notifying the same to you, and am to acquaint you by His Majesty's Command, that your Dispatches are to be henceforward directed to me. You may depend upon their being punctually laid before the King, & that I shall not fail to transmit to You, from time to time, such Orders, as I may have the Honour to receive from His Majesty in consequence of them.

I am with great Truth & Regard
Gentlemen, Your most Obedient
humble Servant.
SHELBURNE

P. S. Instead of a Duplicate I send You herewith a Copy of the Letter the Duke of Richmond wrote to You on the 10[th] of last Month,* inclosing a printed Copy of an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament relating to Duties on Melasses &c[a].

His Majesty has been likewise pleased to make a further considerable Change in Administration, by the following Appointments, to some of the principal Offices of Government. Lord Camden to be Lord Chancellor; Lord Northington, to be President of the Council; M[r] Pitt created Earl of Chatham, Lord Privy Seal; Duke of Grafton first Lord of the Treasury, and M[r] Cha[s] Townshend, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Gov[r] & Company of Connecticut.

* This evidently refers to the letter of June 12.

EARL OF SHELBURNE TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

WHITEHALL 9th August 1766.

Gentlemen,

The King having been pleased to make an Order in Council, bearing Date the 8th Instant, which Revokes and Repeals every Clause and Article, contained in the Order made by His late Majesty in Council, on the 11th Day of March 1752.

I transmit to you herewith, in Obedience to the above-mentioned Order, a Copy of the same for your Information & Observance.

I am, with great Truth and Regard
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
humble Servant.
SHELBURNE

Governor & Company of Connecticut

[Indorsed] From the Earl of Shelburne 9th of August
Receiv'd 6th Octobr 1766

ORDER IN COUNCIL.

AT THE COURT AT St JAMES'S
THE 8TH DAY OF AUGUST 1766
PRESENT
THE KINGS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

Lord President	Earl of Hillsborough
Lord Privy Seal	Earl of Shelburne
Duke of Grafton	Viscount Falmouth
Earl of Hertford	Mr Secretary Conway

Whereas there was this day laid before His Majesty at this Board an Order made by His late Majesty in Council on the 11 day of March 1752 containing several Rules & Regulations, relating to His Majestys Colonies & Plantations in America particularly with respect to the Correspondence, to be carried on between the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, & the Governors of the said Colonies & Plantations respectively. His Majesty taking the aforementioned Order into His Consideration, is hereby pleased

with the advice of His Privy Council, to Revoke & Repeal the same & every Clause Article & thing therein Contained; And His Majesty doth hereby signify His further Pleasure that the Lords Commissioners for Trade & Plantations do cause a Copy of this Order to be entered upon the Books of the Plantation Office, and that one of His Majestys Principal Secretaries of State do cause Copies thereof to be sent to the Governors of His Majestys Colonies & Plantations in America to the end that all Persons Concerned may Govern themselves accordingly, & His Majesty doth hereby further order that the said Lords Commissioners for Trade & Plantations do prepare the Draft of an additional Instruction to be sent to the Governors & Commanders in Chief of all His Majesty said Colonies & Plantations Respectively as well in America as elsewhere, Revoking and annulling all & every such Part and Parts, of the general Instructions to them as do direct the said Governors to Correspond in Matters relative to their said Governments respectively, with the said Lords Commissioners for Trade & Plantations only, and signifying His Majestys Pleasure that in all Cases where His said Governors are directed & required to transmit any particular or general accounts of their Proceeding or of matters relative to their Government they do for the future transmit the same to His Majesty by one of His Majestys Principal Secretaries of State and also transmit Duplicates thereof to the Lords Commissioners for Trade & Plantations for their Information except in Cases of a secret Nature.

W BLAIR

[Indorsed] From W^m^ Blair Court S^t^ James August 8^th^ 1766
Received Octo^br^ 6, 1766

EARL OF SHELBURNE TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

WHITEHALL September 13^th^ 1766.

Gentlemen,

Advices having been received from His Majesty's Superintendants for Indian Affairs, that the most unprovoked Violences and Murthers have been lately committed on the Indians, under the Protection of His Majesty, and whose

Tribes are, at present, in Peace and Amity with His Majesty's Provinces, and that the Offenders have not yet been discovered and brought to Justice, and, likewise, that Settlements have been made on the Back of the Provinces, without proper Authority, and beyond the Limits prescribed by His Majesty's Royal Proclamation of 1763, and, in some Places, even beyond the utmost Boundaries of any Province, in America, and that, in Consequence, the Indian Nations do, every where, discover the greatest Discontents and Resentments, which may endanger the Peace of His Majesty's Provinces, and the Safety of His Subjects.

It is therefore His Majesty's Commands, that you apply yourselves, in the most earnest Manner to remedy, and prevent those Evils, which are as contrary to the Rules of good Policy, as of Justice and Equity.

The Violation of those Principles, attended also with so many Dangers to the Provinces, is, what cannot be permitted; If a due Obedience had been paid to His Majesty's Royal Proclamation, and a due Attention given to proper Restraints, on the Conduct of the Indian Traders, these Evils would have been effectually avoided.

His Majesty's Commander in Chief has receiv'd express Orders to co-operate with the Civil Government, for the enforcing a due Obedience to that Proclamation; And His Majesty requires & expects every Measure to be taken, which Prudence shall dictate for the removing such Settlers, preventing in future, any such Settlements as are contrary to the Intention of it, and for apprehending such Offenders, whose daring Crimes have so direct a Tendency to involve the whole of His Majesty's Provinces in America, in an Indian War.

I am, with great Truth and Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
humble Servant
SHELBURNE

Govr & Company of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] Letter from Secretary Shelburne 13th of Septr 1766 Recd 10th of Novr

MEMORIAL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

To the Governor, Council & Representatives of the Colony of Connecticut, in General Court Assembled, at N. Haven, Octob^{r} 9th 1766.

The Memorial & Thanks, of Jacob Johnson, Minister of Christ, at Groton &c

Humbly Sheweth, & acknowledgeth,

That, wheras the Gen^{ll} Assembly, at their Sessions at Hartford, May last, was pleased, upon a Memori^{l} laid before them, to consider, the deplorable State of the Indian Children, in the Town of Groton afors^{d} and to Order a Sum of Money, to be laid out to cloth s^{d} Children: And appointed Col. Hez: Huntington, & Col Jabz. Huntington Esqr's, a Comte, to Inspect the State of s^{d} Indians, and make Report at the Next Sessions: And wheras s^{d} Com^{te} Came, and found a N^{o} of Ind^{n} Childr^{n}, objects of Charity, Did accordingly, provide clothing, for 24 of the most Indigent, & necessitous of them: so that they may, & do, decently, & steadily attend the Ind^{n} School: & make good proficiency in Learning &c

Wherefore, Your hum^{le} Memorialist, in Consideration herof, Takes this Opportunity, in his Own Name, & on behalfe of the Ind^{ns}, and at their Desire, to return Thanks to the Gen^{ll} Assembly, of both Houses, for the Notice taken of the Former Memorial, & the Favour Shewn to the Suffering Natives, in Clothing their poor Children (A Sacrifice, I am persuaded, well pleasing to God) And here with all, humbly submitting what may be further thought proper, to be laid before the Assembly, to the Advice of their Com^{te}, on their Report to the Assembly, at their Present Sessions. And your Memorialist, as in Duty bound, Shall ever Pray &c

Jacob Johnson

Dated Groton Septem^{r} 17. 1766

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Inner Temple London 20 Sepr 1766

Sir

It was a few days ago only that I had the honour to receive yours of ye 18th of June, your Letter had probably been some time in England, because I was not only in the Country but absent a little while from my usual place of Residence there, yet I think it could hardly have been a fortnight on shore. I mention this to excuse my having so long delayed congratulating you on your Election to ye Important Office you fill & which your Probity & Abilities so well deserve.

I have been always ready to pledge my Credit, for the Good Conduct & Loyalty of ye Colonies & particularly for those of ye Colony of Connecticut, because I have no doubt that the Disposition of the People is at least as generally loyal as that of any other part of ye Kings Subjects & because I have always been convinced that they are generous & grateful.

The Bills for £8500 will be duly honoured, when they come to hand, I wish to have advice of ye Numbers Sums &c as soon after the Drawing as convenient, that if possible I may not have occasion to pay a Draught before the Advice arrives; this may prevent Mistakes which my Bankers Servants have twice only been drawn into to avoid risking ye Credit of ye Colony, but both those Mistakes have been since retrieved without any ill consequences. Hitherto therefore Our Remittances have been without Loss, although it has been sometimes impossible to send home ye List of Advice quite in time.

I shall transmit my Account with the Colony, by the next ship, or at least as soon as the Advice List arrives, because when that amounts to £8500 I shall take Credit for it, as it will reduce ye Balance to a sum that ye Colony will probably think proper to have in my hands until ye Determination at least of ye Mohegin Suit, or for such other Purposes & they may judge may require it. You will do me but Justice in believing that my Earnest Diligence

& Attention will be employed, & employed with great pleasure to myself in supporting & advancing the Interests of ye Colony.

I am Sir with great Faith & Regard.

Yr most Obedt

& most hble Servt

RD JACKSON

[Indorsed] Letter from Agent Jackson September 20th 1766
Recd Decr 1st 1766

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Inner Temple 20 Sept 1766

Sir

It has been usual for me when I wrote a Publick Letter to ye Govr of the Colony, to annex a Private one, not that I ever meant, that such a Letter should be confined singly to the Person to whom it was addressed, but that it shd be communicated only as far as his Discretion judged proper, because some few Advices, ought not to be made quite Publick for obvious Reasons.

Among such Subjects I reckon the Suit subsisting between ye Mohegin Indians, on the one hand & ye Colony & Settlers on ye Lands formerly the Mohegin Lands on ye other. From the time I became acquainted with this Suit, I have been satisfyed that those Indians have no just ground of Claim, that they owe all they now enjoy to the Benevolent Attention of ye Colony, & that if they really had any, at the time of ye original Controversy that Claim has been fairly purchased on the one hand & released on ye other: but it may be difficult to make out these facts, one is often deceived in the Events of the most favourable Causes in appearance, & ye wisest & most knowing Judges before whom our cause may be heard may not be easily made to comprehend of how very little Value those Lands were, & would now be without English Improvement, how ample therefore, in substance, though trivial in appearance the Considerations paid have been, & how informal, (&

therefore not capable of ye same clear proof, European Transactions usually are,) Indian transactions, especially old ones have generally been.

They may have the same difficulty in comprehending (what is really true as I understand,) that ye greater part of those who give Countenance & Support to Mr Mason, are a set of Vagabonds who can have no Title whatever Title any one else may have, but have associated themselves with ye old Mohegins, & been received for the sake of making a Majority to serve a Purpose

These Reasons induce me to wish that as much advantage as possible (I mean no undue Advantage) may be taken of that Part of our Law which is so essential to real Justice in every Country. I mean the Limitation of Legal Remedys. God forbid that I should advise any Man or set of Men to avail themselves of, the Letter of the Law against an honest & fair Demand, but a time will always come when a Man however honestly he may come by his right will not be able sufficiently to make it out, even against an unjust Claimant & on this Principal All Laws of Limitation stand, & may certainly be made use of with great Justice where ye Posessor came fairly by his right. It is certainly hard to put the present possessors of ye Mohegin Lands on their Defence, they are bona fide purchasors for a valuable Consideration, the Return in America is now of long standing, many of ye Owners dead, & their Evidence lost. All this has been hinted at ye Council Board, & attended to by Lord Mansfield so far as that he refused to permit ye Appeal to be revived of Course but advised their Lordships (himself being one) to order as they did that it shd be revived nisi. When ye Council therefore sit again it will be proper for the owners to appear & object to ye Revival, of ye Suit & Appeal. Of this Order they can have no Express Notice but it must to put it on ye Royal Exchange I believe. I have therefore communicated this to Col. Dyer who lives near that country.

I am with great sincerity
yr faithfull hble servt
Rd JACKSON.

[Indorsed] Private Letter from Mr Jackson Septr 20th 1766
Recd 1st of Decr 1766

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF RICHMOND.

HARTFORD 22d Septembre 1766

My Lord

The Receipt of your Lordships Letters of May June & July directed to the Governr & Company of the Colony of Connecticut where I have the Honr at present to preside, with the enclosed Acts of parliament, herewith I acknowledge. His Majestys pleasure in Reposing in your Lordship the Trust of a principal Secratary for the Southern Department, your well known Accomplishments, and Nobleness of Mind of late displayed on the Part of America give the highest Assurance that all their Interesting Affairs, will be Objects of your special Attention, from Time to Time.

It is with the Sincerest Gratitude, that his Majestys pleasure is receiv'd in the several Acts, which have pass'd his Royal Assent in Favour of America. The Inteligence of the Repeal of the late Stamp Act, occasion'd general Joy; the Hearts of Americans were impress'd with Sentiments of undissembled Loyalty to his Majesty; and at the same Time entertain'd a very respectful Regard for those worthy Patriots, who generously engag'd, and exerted themselves in that Interesting & Important Affair; among which your Lordships Name is mentioned with Gratitude and Affection, by the Inhabitants of this Colony. Those Acts Transmitted, with your Lordships Letters are likewise gratefully receiv'd; such Favours from the Throne, & our Mother Country, are consider'd as Ernests of things to come, as presages of Future good to the Colonies. Such salutary Measures have the happiest Tendency to Cement Great Britain and her Colonies, and to render their Union more Indissoluble than which nothing can be more desireable. His Majestys paternal Care & Indulgence, are felt by his Subjects in this Colony, and such good Effects 'tis hop'd, Time will produce, that it will fully appear that his Royal Care and Tenderness were well employ'd, and his

Ministers no Reason to regret but Rejoice in the patronage of America.

I am with the greatest Esteem & Regard
my Lord Your Lordships most Obedient
& most Humble Servt
Wm PITKIN

To The Right Honourble The Earl of Richmond

[Indorsed] Hartford, Connecticut, 22d Septr 1766. Govr Gitkin R 10th Novr

WILLIAM HOW TO CHARLES LOWNDES.

Sir,

The Commissioners having received a Letter from the Collector & Comptroller of New London of the 14th of May 1766 and one from Captn Durell of his Majestys Ship Cygnet on that Station of the 14th August, have ordered a Case relative to the points therein to be laid before the Attorney General for his opinion thereon but the advices appearing to be of moment the Commissioners have directed Copies of these papers to be herewith transmitted for their Lordships information.

I am likewise directed to transmit an Extract from a Letter received from the Collector & Comptroller of Saint John's Antigua of the 30th of May representing the proceedings of the Assembly & Council of that Island in examining into the conduct of the Officers of the Customs in regard to the Fees taken by them in their Offices.

I am, Sir,
Your most Obedient humble servt
Wm HOW
In the absence of the Secretary.

Custom House London 26th September 1766.
Charles Lowndes Esqr

[Indorsed] Sepr 26h 1766 Mr How of the Customs with Inclosures from America Inclosures to be copied for the Chancellor. Read Octr 2 1766. Customs Lre 5 wrote to Cos Customs as ℔ Minute.

NEW LONDON COLLECTOR AND COMPTROLLER OF CUSTOMS TO COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS.

Copy of a Letter from the Collector & Comptroller of New London in Connecticut dated 24th May 1766 to the Commissioners of the Customs.

We are favoured with your Honours Letter of the 10th Janr, a few Weeks before it came to hand Mr Stewart received the following one from the Merchants of this District.

To Duncan Stewart Esqr Collector of His Majesty's Customs in the Port of New London and Colony of Connecticut.

Sir

"We the Subscribers Merchants in the Colony of Connecticut aforesaid, being of Opinion that the Form of Oath required of Masters of Merchant Vessels Inward, as now practised in the Customhouse of said New London, is not agreeable to the Acts of Parliament relative thereto, The Form of Oath now in Use need not be transcribed as it is in the Customhouse, as far as We are able to discover the Oath required of a Commander of a Merchantman by Act of Parliament on Inward Entry, it is in the following Words, Stat. 14 Car. 2. Cap: 11 Par: 3 Vizt.

"The Master &ca of such Ship or Vessel, shall make a just and true Entry upon Oath, of the Burthen Contents and Lading of every such Ship or Vessel with the particular Marks, Numbers, Qualities and Contents of every Parcell of Goods therein laden, to the best of his Knowledge; also where and in what part she took in her Lading, of what Country built, how manned, who was Master during the Voyage, and who are Owners thereof." The Act further adds, and in all Out ports or Members, to come directly up to the place of unlading as the Condition of the Port requires, and will admit, and make Entry as aforesaid upon the penalty of the Forfeiture of One Hundred pounds."

"And as We cannot find a Statute that Authorizes the Collector to require any other than the aforesaid Oath, nor any other Interogatory Questions whatever on a Merchant-

mans Inward Entry touching the Voyage on Oath. We hope unless be a Statute that provides some other Form of Oath, in this Case, or gives the Collector Authority to interrogate the Master on Oath at his Discretion for the future The Form prescribed by the Act aforesaid will be made the rule in the Custom house in New London and no other.

"The 3d Par: in aforesaid Act provides that Commanders of Men of War British & Foreigners as well as Merchant Ships that take Merchandize on board Outward bound shall give Officers of Customs Invoices thereof under their Corporal Oaths & answer Questions &ca.

"And Commanders of Men of War British and Foreigners to do the same Inward (but not Commanders of Merchant Ships on Inward Entry) The Act 15 Car: 2d Cap 7. Par: 8. makes it the Duty of a Commander of Merchant ships, Outwards & Inwards, to give a true and perfect Invoice of the lading and the place where laden (but not on Oath) on Forfeiture of Ship, Guns, Tackle and Apparell, and all European Goods not Shiped in Great Britain.

"In the Act first mentioned the Penalty is only One hundred pounds, and the last mentioned Act is vastly greater, as the case may happen therefore it is a question which appears to Us of consequence, whither the Oath prescribed in the first Statute is not superceded by the 2d Statute within mentioned."

"As we have not the least Intention of objecting to any Act of Parliament relative to Trade; so We are assured you have not any desire to establish any Rules in the Custom House that are not supported by Act of Parliamt. And when you have considered the Subject Matter of this Letter, an Answer therto will highly oblige

Your most Humble Servants

Signed by 8 Merchants.

The Reply we made was to shew them your Honors Letter of the 10th Jany, and Article the 31st & 32d under the head of Ships in Saxby—this however has not entirely Sat-

isfied them, as they say, *and that I have not broke Bulk*, is not particularly mentioned in the Statute, and that the Queries are not to be answered upon Oath, but as We look upon it as a very material part of the Oath, We shall always persist to insist upon it.

The Objection that has Often times been made (altho not mentioned in their Letter) to the following Words, in the Form of Oath to the Report of Ships Outward We think reasonable; *And that I will not suffer to be landed, in any other Port or Place*, We therefore insert, *And that I intend the Good &c^a* as We are humbly of Opinion this alteration can have no ill consequence.

We further beg leave to Observe to your Honours, that it being considered for the good of the Revenue, the Surveyor General ordered Us to advertize, that all Inward Vessels excepting Coasters, should come into this Harbour and make report before they presumed to proceed to any other part of the Colony within this district. The greatest part have since done so, but some others have proceeded to the Spot they happen to belong to, without paying any regard to the Advertizement, as they say the Law indulges them to come directly up to the place of unlading. If this however is allowed it will be impossible for Us to put the Merchants upon an equal Footing, as Our Waiters have some times 20, 30 and 40 Miles to go before they get to the Vessels, and in the mean time they have it in their power to run what Goods they please. It may perhaps be thought the effectual way to prevent it, would be to oblige all Vessels with Dutyable Goods to unload at this Town, but the nature of the Trade is such that to avoid so great an expence We really beleive many would rather risk the running of their Cargoes, besides occasioning great Uneasiness, and We humbly apprehend if every Vessel was under the necessity of acting agreeable to the other Regulations, it would answer the same purpose, provided every Township (except this) was obliged to find Weights and Scales for the Use of the King, and Application if your Honors approved of it might be made to the Assembly for that purpose.

There is another Difficulty, which more immediately regards Ourselves, We shall likewise take the Liberty to mention to your Honors. It would appear by Our Deputation as if We could have a lawfull power to enter into any Shop, House, Warehouse, Hostery or other place whatsoever, We pointed Out as well as we could to the King's Attorney the manner We thought that might legally be done, and desired he would lay the affair before the Superior Court.

He has since wrote to Us the following answer,

"I carried your Papers &c^{a} to New haven, mention'd the Affair to the Judges relative to a Writ of Assistance. The considered it as a matter of Importance but was at a great loss with regard to the Affair. As the Act of Parliament has made Express provision that it shall issue under the Seal of the Court of Exchequer: And We have no Statute here relative to it. The Judges therefore made no determination about it." As this is the case We therefore think it Our Duty to acquaint yonr Honours of the great Impediment there is by this means of exerting Ourselves in the Execution of Our Office.

[Indorsed] Copy of a Letter from the Collector & Comptroller of New London in Connecticut to the Comm^{rs} of the Customs dated the 24th May 1766 Read Oct^{r} 2. 1766.

CAPT. DURELL TO COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS.

Copy of a Letter from Capt^{n} Durell Comm^{r} of the Cygnet, stationed at New London, Connecticut Aug^{t} 14, 1766 to the Comm^{rs} of the Customs.

In the Honour I have of bearing a Deputation from your Board, I esteem it a very essential part of my Duty, not only to prevent the Illicit Trade, but also to give every assistance to the Officers of his Majestys Customs, which they may demand, and such as is consistent for the Honor of his Majestys Service and particularly whatever relates to his Majestys Revenue. It is therefore that I beg to trouble you with this Letter to lay before you The Difficulty

that is and will daily arise from the Merchants of this Port refusal of paying that ready Obedience and Deference which ought to be paid to Acts of the British Parliament, and as I have observed with deep Concern that every Obstacle is given to his Majestys Collector at this Port, whose ultimate Ambition seems apparently to tend in a strict discharge and vigilant Observance of his Duty by which he distinguishes himself a faithful Servant to his Majesty and that from the Spirit of Independency which so manifestly doth appear in the People, I beg leave to apprehend that he still will meet with farther Obstacles in the discharge of his Office from the Variety of Difficulties they make and which has to encounter from most, if not all the principal Merchants here, who avowedly combine in Opposition to his making Use of the Form of Oath to the Inward Manifest on this Principal which he will not relax, as if that part objected to, be dispensed with, it will but too visibly tend to their facilitating that favorite System of Smugling which has too much prevailed here, on this they have grounded their presumptuous hopes, by intimidating when they could not effect it it by Venality.

The Objection they make is immediately pointed at, the following Clause in the Manifest "And that I have not broke Bulk or deliv'red any Goods out of my said Ship since her Loading &c[a] From their great Disapprobation of this Part of the Oath, it but too plainly appears what they would gladly conceal and effect was it not from the Just and politic Severity of the Oath and I beg leave to say that if that Clause should be dispenced with, I cannot but apprehend it will not be in the Power of his Majesty's Servants employ'd in collecting the Revenue, to prevent the Mischiefs that will naturally arise, which at the same time that it will disarm the Officer, it will encourage a System that but too generally prevails in this Part of his Majestys Dominions.

And as the Merchants here have thought proper to remonstrate by Letter to M[r] Stewart (a Copy of which he informs me he has transmitted to your Board) upon this head and that they are determined not to pay a strict

Obedience to that Part of the Manifest, and from the Difficulty that must inseparably ensue, as he is firmly determined to abide by the Spirit of his Instructions, without any the least variation whatsoever, and from the Confusion this their proceeding will consequently create, I therefore have thought it indispensibly necessary to lay this before the Commissioners, the more so as it will be from them, That a determination will be given to a point of this Delicacy, and Consequence to his Majestys Revenue.

I could not avoid taking Part with this Gentleman, as I am perfectly well assured of his zeal for the Honour and Advantage of his Majestys Revenue, and I beg leave to observe that notwithstanding all the Attention which he dedicates to his Office, yet to this One of the many apparent and approaching difficulties he daily meets, is also added this other difficulty in a Determination they have of not paying him the Legal fees except he will relinquish that Part of the Manifest which is with them so obnoxious, but in this I am also satisfied that he will rather give up all self Considerations, than deviate in the least Principle from the Spirit of his duty, and your Instructions, the which he zealously makes his Guidance.

As this Spirit of Opposition seems to prevail in direct Contempt to all Government, I beg leave to observe that unless the Interposition of Authority puts a period to it, it will not be possible for the Kings Servants to exert themselves properly, and the Evils that apparently may be the Consequences, by an undetermination of the Power and support of the officers employ'd in the Revenue, will leave it ever at the Caprice of every turbulent Association, who fired with the Ideas of imaginary independecy and followed by a Mob, to plant Obstacles and shew difficulties to the Officer in his Legal Duty, That this has been the prevailing Spirit and I too much fear is so now, I beg leave to apprehend is too manifest, I have the Honour to be with great Respect, &c^{a}

[Indorsed] Copy of a Letter from Capt^{n} Durell Commander of the Cygnet Stationed at New London in Connecticut to the Comm^{rs} of the Customs dated 14th August 1766 Read Oct^{r} 2. 1766.

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[Between the times of writing his letters of September 20 and November 8, 1766, Richard Jackson appears to have written another letter to Governor William Pitkin and to have enclosed with it the account with the Colony which follows.]

RICHARD JACKSON'S ACCOUNT.

Richard Jackson in Account with the Govr and Company of the Colony of Connecticut.

Cr				£	s	d
Received from Mr Ingersol & the Treasury						
Grant for Services 1759				47,329	12	5
N B. This Includes the Intst on the Tallies						
Grant of Parliament for Services in 1760		44,309	18			
Charges on the Receipt thereof at the Treasury and Pay Office		61	19	44,247	19	
Services 1761		30,782	9	6		
Charges on Receipt as before	46 14 6					
Repaid to the other Colonys	3619 6 6	3,666	6	6	27,116	3
The Colonys Share of a Reserve of £10,000		1499	2	0		
Settled by Agreement among the Agents (Charges thereon		2	12	6	1,496	9	6

N B. This Reserve was made by the Lords of the Treasury for the Province of the Massachusetts Bay as a Compensation for Winter Service, but being opposed by the other Agents, they consented

to take a part only & the other Colonies agreed thereto that this Sum might not continue locked up.

Grant for Services 1762	32,564	2	6				
Charges thereon as before	49	7		32,514	15	6	
Received under an Order of the Court of Chancery & the Masters Report thereon, of the Executors of Richd Partridge	£2524	15					
Inr John Colman's Bill of Charges	1	11	6	3,223	3	6	
				£155,228	2	11	

℔ Contra Cr	£	s	d
Bills drawn by by Govr Fitch at Various times	145,257	10	3¼
This Sum includes £805 7 3, all but 2, drawn on Mr Ingersol, but paid by me, the Bills not appearing while he was in England This Sum exceeded the advice I received from Govr Fitch by some Accident 0 0 9d & was originally intended to have been paid out of the Grant for the Services of a former year			
One of the Bills on Mr Ingersol being noted I paid		5	0
My Salary to the 30th May 1766	600	0	0
Salary of Mr Thos Life to the 5th July 1766	250	0	0
Copys of Papers from Treasury, Postage of Packets including Muster Rolls & Manifests &c	6	15	0
Ordinary Postage of Letters & Annual Charges at the Board of Trade I defray myself			

Advanced to Mr Life towards Charges of defending the Suit prosecuted by Mr Mason				21	0	0
Ballance of this Account				9,092	12	7¾
				£155,228	2	11
Ballance brought down	9,092	12	7¾			
Further Expences	30	0	0			
Bills drawn or to be drawn by Govr Pitkin	8500	0	0	8530	0	0
			£562	12	7¾	

E Excepted R J

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Mr Johnson returns his sincrest Thanks to The Hone Genl Assembly for the Confidence they are pleased to place in him in appointing him Agent for the Colony in the Moheagean affair. He finds himself upon reflection extremely involved in Business, much Complicated, & extensively Connected, which it will be very difficult properly to extricate himself from in the short Time allow'd him for this purpose. Yet Attentive to the Voice of his Country, & hoping for a Candid Construction of his sincere Endeavours to serve the Colony which shall not be wanting he is willing to undertake this Important Trust, & to Execute it in the best manner he can, provided proper Appointments are made him for his Time Expences &c. But thinks it will be impossible with his utmost Assiduity to leave home before the middle of December; which he humbly submits to this Honl Assembly and is

Yr Hons most obedt Servant

WM SAML JOHNSON*

*The date "Oct. 1766" has been added.

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

New Haven 30th Octobr 1766.

Sr

Your Favour of the 5th & 21st of June Ult have Receiv'd. The Appeal of Mason in Behalf of the Mohegan Indians mentioned in that of the 21st as likely soon to come on, appears now by the Citation to the Inhabitants who hold and possess the Land in Controversy that the Time set for Hearing is in February next. This was notified at Colchester Hebron &c about the middle of this instant. The Time they have to prepare and send an Agent or Attorney to appear for them is short, considering the Dificulties & Dangers Attending a Winter passage. William Saml Johnson Esqr the Gentleman chosen for that Purpose will loose no Time in preparing and will Embark with all convient Speed. They whose all is at Stake depend on being fully heard by themselves, and think there can be no Doubt that if their Agent does not arrive in season, for the Case to be heard in February, it will be put off to some future Time, their Lordships being acquainted with their Design and the great Care they are taking to have their Agent there in Season if possible; to favour which Delay, of the Case being heard before the Arrival of their Agent, you will be pleas'd to use your greatest Influence if Needful. The General Assembly of the Colony have also appointed the same person Special Agent to Join with and Assist you, with all Needful Light & Help that may be afforded by a person well Acquainted with the Affair the Circumstances of the Indians; and the just and charitable Manner in which they have been treated by the Colony. The Controversy from first to last, is not Occasioned from the Uneasiness and Complaint of the Indians, so much as from the Designs of many English people to serve themselves therby. The Dangerous Consequences, of the Title of our Lands being Tried in this Summary Way, neither by Jury nor in the Country where the Lands lye, is very alarming, & becomes an Object of great Attention and many Fears. Nothing could diffuse greater Joy Satisfaction

and Gratitude, than the Repeal of the Stamp Act, and are obliged to you for your Great Care and Attention to procure the same. This Affair spreads a new Gloom over us, that so many Thousand Inhabitants should be turned off, from their Lands, really held by the Conquest of the Pequots, and all Claim of Uncass Sachem of the Mohegan Indians, honestly purchased and held by Deed in 1640, and all those Indians who were friendly to the English at that Time justly treated according to their Usages & Expectations.

I am with great Esteem & Respect,

S^r^ Your most Obedient

& very hum^ble^ Serv^nt^

To Richard Jackson Esqr &c

[Indorsed] Letter to Richard Jackson Esq 30^th^ October 1766

COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS TO SECRETARIES TO THE TREASURY.

May it please Your Lordships,

We beg leave to present to Your Lordships that on the 26^th^ of September We caused a Copy of a Letter from the Collector & Comptroller of New London of the 14^th^ of May and one from Capt^n^ Durell of his Majestys Ship Cygnet on that Station of the 14^th^ of August to be laid before Your Lordships, and that We had ordered a Case relative to the points therein mentioned to be laid before the Attorney General for his opinion thereon prior to Our receiving Your Lordships Orders of the 8^th^ of October on that matter, and having received the Opinion of the Attorney General on the Case laid before him, We transmit inclosed a Copy of the said Case & Opinion, with Copies of the Forms referred to in the said Case for Your Lordships information.*

* As the Case and Queries submitted to the Attorney General with the forms of manifests, &c. annexed, are long, and apply generally to all the colonies, it is thought best not to give them in full. A brief note of the opinion of Mr. de Grey may be set down. It is dated 17 Octr

In answer to a long Question he sums up:—(1) That the practice of interrogating masters of merchant ships in words in the manner stated is not warranted by certain Acts referred to. (2) That a certain Oath as far as it exceeds the forms prescribed by the 2d section of 14 Chs 2d, and a certain Form are not warranted.

We beg leave to take notice to Your Lordships that the Attorney General in his Answer to the first Quere on the 3d Section of the Act of the 14 Chas 2 Chap: 11 is of Opinion that the whole of that clause relates only to Ships of War, tho' the Merchants at New London in their Memorial assent to that Clause so far as it relates to Vessels Outwards as binding upon Merchants Vessels likewise, so that the Attorney General goes further in favor of the Traders than what is insisted on by the Merchants themselves.

From the Opinion of the Attorney General on the several points in the Case laid before him it appears to Us, that the Officers of the Customs in America are not vested with sufficient legal Authority for carrying into execution the Acts of Navigation, Trade, & Revenue, relative to the Colonies & therefore We submit to Your Lordships whether it may not be expedient to have the interposition of Parliament for granting the proper powers to the Officers of the Revenue in America on the several points mentioned in the Case inclosed.

J. PENNINGTON
EDWD HOOPER
W: MUSGRAVE

Custom house London 31st October 1766. H. H. Js Jeffreys.

[Indorsed] Commissrs of the Customs Memorial with the Attorney General's opinion with regard to Vessels entering and clearing in America. receed 1st Novr 1766 Read Novr 4 1766 Lre wrote 10th Novr 1766 Customs 5

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(3) That a certain Reprt (as to outward going vessels) being founded on the 3d section of 14 Chs 2d "which I am of opinion does not extend to the ships of merchants is not warranted by those Statutes."

To another Query :—"I think the Masters of Ships are not obliged to make their entry or report at the Custom House till they have arrived at the known & usual place of unlading."

To a third Query :—he is against construing words in in Act of Wm III to empower the officers of Customs to enter & search &c. without writ of assistants . . . . also that there is no process in the plantations to correspond with the requirements of that Act.

A subsequent letter of the Commissioners of the Customs dated 22 November, relates to further resistance at Boston described in a letter from there of 24 September, and makes them repeat what they submitted in this of 31 October as to the expediency of the interposition of Parliament for the purpose of enabling the officers to effectually carry into execution the laws of trade and navigation.

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Private

Sir

I have not sufficient Certainity of what is on the Anvil respecting America, to write publickly on the subject; I hope to hear from ye Ministry what instruction they may have as soon as any body. I am happy in a share of ye Confidence of Ld Shelburn Minister In American Affairs, but Ld Chatham meditates on many of these subjects in Secrecy. One regarding Indian Affairs & new Settlements have been communicated to me, but in this I conceive ye Colony little interested. I guess that another is the reducing the Number of Forces in America, applying the Revenue the Crown has in America towards paying ye Remainder, & asking ye Colonies in a Constitutional Manner for a Contribution of what may be necessary to compleat ye sum. I have no Authority yet for what I write but think it necessary to furnish you with ye first Notice of what I conjecture you may depend on my Vigilance & Assiduity in reducing the Demand on ye Colony as low as possible, shd such a plan take place. it will then become afterwards ye subject of ye Consideration of the Legislature of ye Colony. I am with sincere Esteem & the strongest Attachment by Interest of ye Colony Sir

Yr most Obedt
& most hble Serv
RD JACKSON

[Indorsed] from Mr Jackson 2 Letters Novr 8. 1766

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Private
Inner Temple 8 Novr 1766

Sir

I shall frequently trouble you with a Private Letter with the View I mentioned to you in my first, that without making it publick, you may use it, as your discretion leads you to do. You must be sensible, it will frequently happen

that I can write more freely on a Subject of delicacy, in a Letter that I know, will be communicated with Caution only, than in one that must necessarily be exposed, if not to Enemies, at least to such as may discover its Contents to such, through Indiscretion.

It is chiefly with the Design of explaining my Intention in troubling you in this Manner, (which perhaps is not necessary) that I inclose this Letter with the other having little special to add, but that the Parliament will sit next Tuesday & we have reason to expect that it will find a good deal of Employment in American Affairs, doubtless, they may do the Colonies some service, & I hope they will yet I cannot but wait for the End of the Session with Anxiety. Fortunately for America as well as Great Britain, Lord Chatham & his friend Lord Shelburne are at the head of Publick Affairs, who as well as the Duke of Grafton & Gen[l] Conway, who were both part of the last Administration, mean I am persuaded to consider the Interests of Great Britain & her Colonies as the same, & will govern themselves by that Maxim. The Weight therefore of this Administration, as well as the last in Parlt will be friendly to the Colonies, & I hope it will continue, but Administrations have lately stood on very insecure foundations. God grant, we may see no more changes, & I have the pleasure to tell you I hope there is yet no prospect of any. I am fortunate in a particular friendship with Lord Shelburne who is at the head of the American Department, as well as with his friend Col Barré, I shall endeavour to improve it for the benefit of what I consider to be our common Interest.

I need not tell you, that our Charter has its Enemies in America as well as England; it is the Object of Envy to some, in the other Colonies, & is unfortunate in its similarity to that of Rhode Island, a Gov[t] that has made herself abundantly more obnoxious, than I dare say Connecticut can be expected to become, even hereafter, at the worst, by her Enemies. But it is impossible with all the Pains one can take, in a Country so remote, altogether to separate them in Peoples Minds. There is a strong Prejudice in

many Men's Affections agt Charter Government, & that too particularly in Men that come from some ye other Govts in America. Col Dyer has been a witness to what I am saying & has contributed to my Knowledge to the removal of the Prejudice when it came in his way; for my own Part I have always insisted & I am sure with truth that the 2 Charter Govts of the Massachusetts & Connecticut were the most Quiet on the whole on ye Continent, if we except one or two very inconsiderate Colonies.

I have reason to think some ill designs by Persons are now at Work to spirit up ill will against us but I shall think it incumbent on me to exert all my Vigilance on this as well as every other Occasion in which the Colony is interested, & your private thoughts on this as well as every other Subject, affecting the Colony will be very acceptable to me.

I think it probable Parliament will again resume the Consideration of Paper Currency: I wish to know as soon as I can from you, whether you think the State of your Currency as settled by the Act of the 24th of Geo. 2 can be altered for the better; I must confess I have been always inclined to think that Alterations in so delicate a Point shd not be made unless in cases of Necessity, & there does almost seem such a Necessity in some of the more Southern Colonies. I am Sir with sincere Esteem

Yr most Obedt
& most hble Servt
RD JACKSON

[Indorsed] Letter from Mr Jackson Nover the 8th 1766

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Inner Temple 8 Novr 1766

Sir

I have received none of your favours since that in which you acquainted me with your Election; since which I have troubled you with 2 in the last of which I transmitted a sheet of my Accounts with the Colony by which it appeared that there was at that time in my hands a

Balance of £9,092, 12s 7d ¾ over & above a further sum of £50 which is in truth in my hands, but for which Bills have been long since drawn though they have not yet appeared, & for which I must account in case they do not come. This Account will be found to vary somewhat from what I last sent Govr Fitch, part of that having been an Estimate only; particularly a small sum of £2 or 2 gus to ye Colonys late Solr Mr Colman, which I have discharged for £1 11s 6d, & some fractions having been unnoted by me, & which it would hardly have been now worth while to observe but for the sake of discovering a Greater Error, (if there be any), by the most scrupulous Exactness. Since I transmitted this Balance I have not only expended a further sum on the Affair of the Mohegins, (the last account contains only £21) but have paid many of the Bills, part of ye sum of £8500 last drawn; the Numbers & Particulars of which I hope I shall soon have the advice of, from you. I hope too this Account will be found to tally with those of the Colony.

Col Dyer writes me word that when he wrote last no publick Letters had been received from me since the Repeal of the Stamp Act; if they have not arrivd since, my Letters must have miscarried, for I sent advice of that Repeal by 2 Letters one of which went by an Express Vessel that sailed from Falmouth purposely to carry the earliest Intelligence. It is true I have heard that Vessel met with misfortunes but have always understood the Letters arrived safe. I was afterwards so unfortunate as not to hear of your Election 'till a long time after I had heard Mr Fitch was not chosen Governor & in that Interval thought I could not write with Propriety.

I have always found my Letters by the Packet go safe, but as those by Merchant Vessels sometimes do not, when not recommended to a Merchant at ye Port of Destination, you will be so good as to favour me with the Names of a Merchant at Boston & New York through whose Care, I may recommend any Letter I may chance to send by those Places. The Parliament will sit next Tuesday, probably

many American Affairs will come under Consideration, I assure you I do but follow my Inclinations & the Dictates of my Conscience in the Attention I shall pay to the Interests of America in general as well as ye Colony of Connecticut in Particular, I think it the same as that of Great Britain I am with great Esteem

Sir yr most Obedt
& most hble Servt
RD JACKSON

Lest my Acct sent before by a Merchant ship directed only to you at Hartford, shd have miscarried I transmit another.

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Inner Temple 25 Novr 1766

Sir

Lest my former Letters may have miscarried, I beg leave to acquaint you that the Balance in my hands when I transmitted my Acct was £9,092 12s 7d ¾, besides which I have £50 more in my hands for which I have taken Credit because I had long before received Advice of Bills drawn on me for it together with other Bills which I have paid. since this Acct drawn out I have expended about £30 more & have paid Bills drawn by you to the Amount of 3 or £400 & shall pay due honour to the Rest as they appear.

This reminds me to beg that I may have a List of ye Bills drawn as soon as convenient, if it be not sent, before this arrives in America such a List I have usually had before I had paid many Bills & may prevent Mistakes, that, may be otherwise unavoidable. I hope at your Leisure to hear that my Accounts agree with those of ye Colony. I am Sir

Yr most Obedt
hble Serv
RD JACKSON

[Indorsed] Letter from Mr Jackson Nov 15th 1766

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson wrote on December 2, 1766, to Governor William Pitkin, as is shown by Pitkin's reply on the eighth of the same month. Apparently he stated that the urgency of his private affairs would prevent his seeing and receiving instructions from Pitkin before his departure to represent the Colony in England.]

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF SHELBURNE.

HARTFORD in Connecticut 4th Decembr 1766

My Lord

I am honour'd with your Lordships Letters of August and September all directed to the Governor and Company of this Colony.

His Majestys pleasure in delivering the Seals for the Southern Department to your Lordship gives me full Assurance of his paternal Goodness and a fresh Instance of his particular Attention to the Interests of the Colonies your Abilities and Influence generously and nobly Employ'd in behalf of America has so establish'd your Character, that no Room is left to doubt but that the real Interest of this Colony will be an Object of your kind Attention.

The Advice his Majesty has Receiv'd Relative to Violences & Murthers committed on the Indians who at present are at peace with his Provinces; I have the pleasure to Inform your Lordship, that the Scituation of this Colony is Remote from any of the Indians Claims & Settlements and that no persons under the Patronage of the Colony have made any Settlements on any Lands claimed by the Indians but his Majestys Proclamation of 1763. has been attended to as a Governing Principle with the small Trading parties from this Government, so that nothing of that Kind has happened here.

This Colony have fearful Apprehensions of the Resentments of the Indian Nations, the Effects of which are recent in their Minds, which has induced them to do every thing in their power to maintain Friendship with them.

I can Assure your Lordship that the Inhabitants of this Colony chearfully yield Obedience to his Majestys Proclamation, and have nothing more at Heart than promoting his Interest in their proper Sphere, and by every Species of their Conduct to prove themselves loyal Subjects. His Majestys pleasure signified in your Lordships Letter for future Correspondence with One of his Principal Secretaries of State I Esteem an Honor, which will be Chearfully comply'd with.

I am my Lord
Your Lordships most Obedient
and most humble Servᵗ
Wᴹ PITKIN

To The Earl of Shelburne &c

[Indorsed] Harford, Connecticut 4 December 1766. Governor Pitkin R 16 Febʸ

WILLIAM PITKIN TO COMMISSIONERS FOR TRADE AND PLANTATIONS.

Connecticut Hartford 5th Decembr 1766.

My Lords

I am honor'd with your Lordships Letter of the 1ᵗ of August last directed to the Govr & Company of this Colony In persuance of the Orders therin transmitted, I have as far as possible in the Time allow'd, prepared an Account of the several Manufactures that have been set up and carried on within the Limits of the Colony since the Year 1734. There is but a single Instance of a Furnace, one only in the Colony for making pig Iron sundry Works for Refining sd Pigs into Bar Iron, which fall short of supplying the Inhabitants with a Sufficiency of Iron, Also one Refinery for Steel, but not Sufficient, to supply the Inhabitants with that Article. There are in sundry Towns in this Colony some small Buildings erected for the Manufactering of Ashes, for making Pot Ash, and this by Ashes almost entirely collected from the House Hearths of the Inhabitants; what of this is made is sent to Great Britain in Remittance for Brit-

ish Manufactures. As to the Number of these Works can not with Precision now say. The Inhabitants of this Colony are chiefly Employ'd in subduing and Improving Land, do nothing more at the Woollen & Linen Manufactures than to supply the Deficiencies of what our produce Enables us to purchase of Great Britain, and what is wrought of that Kind is principally of the Courser Sort for Labourers & Servants which is done by particular Families for their Necessary Use. These my Lords, are the Manufactures. set up in the Colony, none of which are Encouraged by any Premium or Gratuity from the Government. Your Lordships may rest assured that from Time to Time shall be Transmitted the like Accounts in Complyance with your Lordships Directions.

I am my Lords,
Your Lordship's most Obedient
& Most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To the Lords of Trade & Plantations

[Indorsed] Proprieties. Connecticut. Letter from Wm Pitkin Esqr Govr of Connecticut, to the Board, dated Decr 5, 1766, relative to the Manufactures set up in that Colony since the Year 1734. Reced Read Febry 10. 1767.

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Hartford 8th Decembr 1766

Sr

I this Day receiv'd your Favour of the 2d Instant before the Receipt of which I fully expected to have seen, and personally have Confer'd with you, and promised myself much Satisfaction in the Interview. The Urgency of your Affairs Apologizes for you. To give very particular directions with Respect to your Conduct, in the Interesting Affair, in which you are Engaged, is perhaps beyond what is expected, and is truely extremely difficult, what a Face things may put on when you arrive at Great Britain is what

we cannot now determine. To Urge against the Cause being heard doubtless many things Favour; as the Length of Time since the Conveyance, so far as we claim by Deed; the present entire Satisfaction of the Mohegans as by their Affidavit appears; and as they are a party concern'd, and entirely satisfied, wish the Former Grants, by their predcessors, may be confirm'd to the English &c. But if the Cause comes upon Tryal, to hold up Truth in the most shining point of Light, appears to be highly requisite; for without all Doubt the clearer this is held up to View the more favourable it will appear on the part of the Colony. After all, when you arrive in Great Britain Wisdom prudence and Discretion, after The best Counsel there obtain'd, must direct you in the Affair. With Regard to your present Engagements I would in general observe that the Colony have put great Confidence in you, in appointing you to this special Agency, with Respect to the Government, I fully depend on it, that not only in this special Affair, in which you are engag'd, but in every thing in which they are Interested you will use your Abilities & Influence to promote and Secure our Liberties & privilidges; very sensible you are the Colony prize them, and think themselves happy in the Enjoyment of them. Major Williams of Lebanon was with me, brought Draughts Relating to the Cause you are specially concerned in, to be completed, the utmost Care has been taken to have them forwarded. Herewith I send you a Copy of the Act of the Assembly, Impowering M^{r} Jackson to supply you with Money as you shall have Occasion for it. The Gentlemen of the Corporation of Yale College have mentioned to me to request your Favour in using your Influence for procuring by Donation a Mathematical Apparatus, and Gratuities for the Support of a professor of the Mathematicks; you will Please to do this Office of Benevolence for them; or obtaining Books for the Library, or any other thing for the Advantage of that Semanary if any Door should open. In effecting which with your other Affairs you will doubly oblige your Friends & well wishers. I shall not forget your Request, many I doubt

not will be the petitions, which will be made for your prosperity and Succes. Be so kind as to write as frequent as Oppertunaties present.

Hoping and Trusting you will be an Honour to your Country, the Government, and your Self; and wishing of you a prosperous Voyage, Succes in your Undertakings, & a Safe Return, I Subscribe myself

Your Friend
& humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

P. S. I send you one Letter to Mr Jackson open, which you will keep in your own Hands, and Seal if you think proper. Also a Map of ye Colony, but cant think it will help the publick Cause if publickly shewn; but use it as you think proper; likewise several other papers; which you will peruse. Some things I have omitted upon Account of Gov Trumbles Hints to you

P S. it is observed there Seems to be a favorable Clause in this Citation which you Have Been Minded off you will Make the Best of it

Yr H Sertt
WM PITKIN

To Wm Samll Johnson Esqr
[Indorsed] Govr Pitkin Decr 8, 1766

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

Hartford 9th Decembr 1766

Sr

In this I Inclose a Copy of the Resolve of the General Assembly of this Colony, in their last Sessions which directs you to supply Dctr Johnson with such Sums of Money as his Occasions may require while in Great Britain upon the Receipt of which, I ask your Favour to advance such Sums as he may stand in Need off upon the Credit of the Colony taking his Receipts for sd Monies, which I would have transmitted to the Colony in Proper Time.

This Gentleman I would Introduce to your Friendship and Favour, to counsel and advise with in the Cause of Mr Mason and other things sutable and proper. I have the pleasure to say that his Abilities and Conduct, have gain'd him, the high esteem of his Country; such Confidence this Colony have put in him in particular, as to give him a Seat, at the Counsel Board; so far by his Conduct has he Merited the good Opinion of the General Assembly of the Colony, as to Repose in him the Trust, and confer upon him the Honor of special Agency in this Interesting Affair. Your personal Acquaintance with him I promise myself, will fully evince that nothing more is Necessary to be added with Regard to his Accomplishments, either Natural or Acquired I make no Doubt, but you will Favour him with your Friendly Assistance in every thing needfull which will be by him well accepted, and very gratefully acknowledged by the Colony.

I am Sr, with Esteem & Regard
Your most Obedient
and most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To Richard Jackson Esq &c.

[Indorsed] Copy of a Letter to Richd Jackson Esqr Decr 9th 1766

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

Hartford 10th Decembr 1766

Sr

Your Letters of the 20th of Septembr last I Receiv'd the first of this Instant. It gives me very great pleasure to Reflect upon the good Opinion you have formed of this Colony, your past good Offices are gratefully acknowledgd as well as the chearful Tendery of your Abilities & Influence for its future Emolument, which the Colony ever since your Connection with it, undoubtedly rely upon. The present Involvement of the Colony Relative to the Cause of Mr Mason & the Mohegan Indians much Attracts our Attention and am persuaded that the Cause requires able & faithful

Friends, each of which Characters you have merited. We can not but conclude that we have both Law & Justice on our Side, the Length of Time since the Conveyance may render it more Difficult, to hold the Truth up so clearly to View, as might have been done some Years past; thro length of Time & Misinformation many a just and good Cause has suffer'd. We have this further also, the Remote Situation of the Land & parties from the place of Tryal, which things appear, may with propriety be urg'd against the Cause being ever heard. I believe every thing will be attended to on your part, in Behalf of the Colony to represent it, in the most Advantageous Light. It is so Interesting an Object with the Colony that they have appointed Dᵉᵗʳ Johnson of this Government special Agent to Act in Conjunction with you who I hope will be ready to Embark in a few Days, his Intended Speedy Voyage, and your thorough Acquaintance with the Cause makes it altogether Needless, that I mention any thing further on the Subject only wishing that your Concurring Influence may have a happy Issue.

With my last of Octoᵇʳ 30ᵗʰ I Transmitted a Copy of Bills of Exchange which I had drawn to the 31ᵗ of sᵈ Month; I now forward a Copy of Bills drawn from that Time to the present.

I am Sʳ with Truth & Regard
Your most Obedient
& most Humᵇˡᵉ Servᵛᵗ
Wᴹ PITKIN

To Richard Jackson Esqr Inner Temple &c
[Indorsed] Letter to Mʳ Agent Jackson Decʳ 10ᵗʰ 1766

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

Hartford 10ᵗʰ Decemᵇʳ 1766

Sʳ

As you have given a very clear Evidence of your Regard for Yale Colledge at New Haven in Connecticut I use the Freedom to inform that the Gentlemen of the Corporation of this Colledge, have Requested Dᵉᵗʳ Johnson

soon to Embark for Great Britain to use his Influence for the procuring some Donations & Gratuities; for its help and Advantage, for what particular purposes, you may be more fully inform'd by Mr Johnson. I would Request your kind Assistance and Influence if you think proper for his Succes in the Affair. The Insufficiency of the Fund of this Colledge to support professors of the several Arts & Sciences has been highly disadvantageous to that Seminary. To help forward so Noble a Design, as the Advancement of Knowledge among Mankind, will undoubtedly give very great pleasure to every generous Mind. Your Generosity heretofore shewn, and very gratefully accepted, encourages me to ask at least your Countenancing the proposal.

I am Sr with great Esteem
Your most Obedient
& most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To Richard Jackson Esqr &c.
[Indorsed] Letter to Mr Jackson 10th Decembr 1766

EARL OF SHELBURNE TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Whitehall. Decemr 11th 1766.

Gentlemen,

I am to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure, that you will, with as much Dispatch as may be, transmit to me for His Majesty's Information, an exact Estimate of the Annual Charge of maintaining & supporting the intire Establishment of His Majesty's Colony of Connecticut, distinguishing the different Funds and the different Services to which those Funds are appropriated. You will be very particular in specifying what Funds are fixed and regular, from those which are Annually granted, or which expire in a given Time.

It is also His Majesty's Pleasure that you transmit to me, at the same time, a full and clear Account of the manner of imposing Quit Rents and of Levying them, as also the mode of granting Lands in your Colony, specifying

the amount of Arrears of Quit Rents, and the Number of Grants hitherto made, and to whom: how many Acres to each and at what Time the Grants have been made.

I am, with great Truth and Regard
Gentlemen, Your most Obedient
humble servant.
SHELBURNE

P S. In future Dispatches I would recommend to you the giving every seperate Subject a seperate Letter & the Numbering of each Letter. This Method will contribute much to the Order & Dispatch of Business.

Governor & Company of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] Letter from Secretary Shelburne Decr 11th 1766
Recd March 2d 1767 No 1

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes to Governor William Pitkin under date of Sandy Hook, Dec. 24, 1766, that he is just putting out to sea on his voyage to England; finds several agreeable passengers on board; has consulted with Judge Smith about the Mohegan Case, and carries several letters of recommendation to persons in England. *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 213.]

ANNUAL EXPENSE OF CONNECTICUT.*

A State of the annual Expence of the several Establishments of the British Colonies in North America, and the West Indies in ordinary Times of Peace with the Amount thereof, distinguishing each Colony respectively so far as the Same can be collected from the latest Returns made to, and other Information received by the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations.

Colony	Annual Expence of the Establishment	Dates of the Return
Connecticut	£3,500	1762,
* *	* * *	* *

* Amongst papers of 1766.

DEBT INCURRED BY CONNECTICUT.*

A State of the Debts incurred by the British Colonies in North America for the extraordinary Expences of the last War, as they stood at the End of the War, distinguishing what Part of the said Debts remains undischarged, and the Provision made for Discharge, so far as the same can be collected from the latest Returns made to, and other Information received by the Commissioners for Trade & Plantations.

Colony	Sum £ s d	Remains undischarged	Provisions for Discharged
Connecticut	259,875		

* * * * * * * * * * *

THOMAS GAGE TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

New York 8th January 1767

Sir,

I have the Honor to Acquaint You, that a vessel is just Arrived here with 188 Recruits from Germany, for His Majesty's Two Battalions of the Royal American Regiment. As both these Battalions are so Situated (the one being Quartered at Quebec, the other Garrisoning the Forts in the upper Country) as to render it impracticable for these Recruits to Join them this Winter, and the Quarters in the Provinces of Pensylvania, New Jerseys, & New York, being Occupied by other Corps, and Two Companys of the Royal Regt of Artillery being Quartered at Boston, I have no Choice left but the Province of Connecticut. I therefore Send to You by Captain Kemble, one of my Aid-de-camps, to request that You will be so good as to Order Quarters to be provided at Stamford, Norwalk, and Fairfield, or which You shall Judge best of those Towns, for Two Officers and 134 of His Majesty's Troops, the other 54 being destined to Recruit the three Companys of the 1st Battalion of the Royal American Regiment, Stationed in South Carolina, will be Immediately sent thither. I have no doubt but You will give such immediate and Specifick Orders upon this head, as that this Detachment of His Majesty's Forces,

* Amongst papers of 1766.

may be Supplied with Quarters &ca, According to the Act of Parliament.

You will be so good to return me an Answer to this Requisition by Captain Kemble, Acquainting me of the Number of Men You shall think best to be Severally Quartered, in the Towns before mentioned.

I am, with great Regard,
Sir, Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
THOS GAGE

P S. I hope that these Recruits, will only require Quarters in your Province, 'till April next, as I shall forward them to their respective Corps by that Time, if the Season will permit.

Honble GEORGE PITKIN Esq Govr of the Colony Connecticut

[Indorsed] Letter from Genl Gage Janry 8th Recd ye 12th 1767

EARL OF SHELBURNE TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

WHITEHALL Jany 13th 1767

Gentlemen

By my Letter of 11th December I signified to You His Majesty's Pleasure that an exact Estimate of the Establishment of the Colony of Connecticut should be transmitted to Me for His Majesty's Information, also a full & clear Account of the manner of granting Lands & imposing Quit Rents. I am to signify to You His Majesty's further Pleasure that You transmit to Me at the same time the establish'd Fees of the different Offices in the Colony particularly the Fees & other Charges attending Grants of Lands, whether legally established or received as Perquisites, which have got a Sanction by Custom, & distinguishing Each.

I am with great Truth & Regard
Gentlemen Your most Obedient
humble Servant.
SHELBURNE

Governor & Company of Connecticut

[Indorsed] No 2 from Secretary Shelborn Jan. ye 13th 1767

WILLIAM PITKIN TO THOMAS GAGE.

HARTFORD Janʸ 20th 1767

Sʳ

I Receiv'd yours of the 8th of Janʸ Instant by Cptn Kemble requesting Quarters for 134 of his Majesty's Troops in the Towns of Stamford Norwalk & Fairfield in this Colony; It would have given me Pleasure to have returned an immediate Answer; but as it was necessary for me to call the Council of this Colony to meet and Advise on the Subject Matter of your Excellencys Letter, I immediately gave them Notice; but as they live scatter'd in the various Parts of the Colony, and the Season being so extraordinary render'd it impracticable to convene them untill this Day; which I trust will appear a sufficient Reason to your Excellency for the Delay I have been oblidged to give Captn Kemble. Am sorry it is not in my Power at this Time to give such immediate & Specifick Orders as your Excellency seem'd to expect. As the Requisitions made by your Excellency were unexpected, and no Barracks or other provision made for Quartering Soldiers here, a Complyance with them, would involve the Colony in a considerable Expense, which cannot be provided For otherwise than by their Representatives in General Court Assembled, makes it necessary to call the same on this Occasion; I have accordingly sent out Orders for Conveining the Assembly on Thursday the 29th Insnt which is as soon as they can possibly Meet. I shall then lay the Matter before them, and Doubt not but they will give the utmost Attention and Dispatch the Nature of the Affair will admit. I shall not fail to give your Excellency the earliest Notice of their Conclusions thereon.

I am with Esteem and Regard
Your Excellencys most Obedient, and most
humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To His Excellency THOMAS GAGE Esqr New York.
[Indorsed] Letter to Genel Gage 20th Janʸ 1767.

THOMAS GAGE TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

New York 25th January 1767

Sir,

Captain Kemble has delivered me your Letter of the 20th Instt and I can't help Expressing my Surprize at the Contents of it, and the Delays given to His Majesty's Service; I had the Honor to make Application to You, as the Executive part of Government for the due Execution of a Law in your Colony, in the Same manner as the Said Law is daily put in Execution by every Justice of the Peace, Constable, Headborough or Tythinghman throughout the Kingdom of England. I cannot Comprehend that your Colony is affected by my Requisition, in any Shape as to Expence; There being no Barracks in the Colony, therefore there is no Expence to be incurred for Bedding, Fuel, Utencils &ca. but the Troops to be Quartered in Publick Houses in the same manner as in England; And as the Publick Houses, in the places mentioned in my Letter of 8th Inst. are more than Sufficient to quarter a few Troops to be Sent into them, the further Provision required by the Law of fitting up Outhouses, Barns, &ca in case there Should not be Sufficient room in Said Public houses to Quarter the Troops, is out of the question. I can't therefore see, by what means the Colony is to be involved in considerable Expence, or that it is necessary to raise a Single Shilling on this Account, The King's Service requires that I Should be at a certainty in this Business, and I am once more Obliged to trouble You on the Subject of my first Letter, and to desire your Answer, whether You will give the proper directions to the Inferior Magistrates to Obey the Law by Billeting the Soldiers in such houses, as are particularly Specified in the Act of Parliament made and provided in this Respect.

I am, with great Regard,
Sir, Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
THOS GAGE

Honble Govr Pitkin

[Indorsed] Letter from Genl Gage 25th Janry 1767

WILLIAM PITKIN TO THOMAS GAGE.

HARTFORD 31t Jany 1767

Sr

Your Letter of the 25th Instant I Received, notwithstanding your Surprize at the Delay of his Majesty's Service, I can assure your Excellency that this Colony have nothing more at Heart than to forward his Majestys Service, and to promote his Interest by every Part of their Conduct I have now the Pleasure to inform your Excellency that the Needful provision is made for Quartering the Number of Troops mentioned in your first Letter The Towns refer'd to in your Requisition have lately been greatly burden'd with a large Number of his Majesty's Regular Troops, and had Encouragement that for the Future they should be Excused which induc'd the Assembly to provide Quarters for said Troops in the Towns of New Haven Wallingford & Branford and I am desired to Request this Favour of your Excellency if it can be without prejudice to his Majesty's Service, otherwise Provision is made in the Towns of Stamford Norwalk and Fairfield. I am further desired To Request your Excellency that Orders be given that the Soldiers may not carry their Arms Except when call'd upon Duty, which may prevent their disturbing the Peace of his Majesty's Subjects, which the People here have fearful Apprehensions off, from their former Experience.

I am Sr with great Regard
Your Excellencys most
Obedient Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To His Excellency THOMS GAGE Esqr New York
[Indorsed] Letter to Genal Gage 31t Janry 1767

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

LONDON 5th Feby 1767

Sir

I received yours of the 30th of Octr yesterday, by which I observe, it has been a long time on its Passage, which is

usual in Winter Time. As a ship sails for Boston today, I cannot but think it incumbent on me, to take the Opportunity of acquainting you, that, there is no doubt but I shall be able to obtain as much Time as will be necessary for Mr Johnsons Arrival. It gives me great Pleasure to hear that Gentleman is destined to assist me in an affair, which though I flatter myself, it is little likely to be unsuccessful, is I well know of so much importance to the happiness of so many familys. you may depend on my most zealous Endeavours for the bringing this Cause to a happy Issue, which I consider as affecting not only the Possessors of the Lands now claimed by the Mohegins, but a great part of all the Inhabitants of America, who in case a Return was in this Case, to pass in favour of those Indians, would be liable to be disturbed by a thousand obsolete Claims set on foot by ill designing Men in allmost every Colony on the Continent in the Name of Indians that would be readily found for that purpose. I am Sir

with great Truth & Regard
yr most Obedt
Most hble Servt
RD JACKSON

[Indorsed] from Mr Jackson 5th of Febry 1767 Recd 11th of May

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Private
Inner Temple 6 Feby 1767

Sir

I agree with you intirely in your Sentiments that, the Situation of ye Possessors of the Lands claimed by the Mohegin Indians is very alarming, & that ye Mode of Trial introduced by the Commission of 1704 is very liable to many substantial Objections. I confess I think the Queen ought not to have intruded her Commission into ye Colony for the Trial of Rights, that certainly were within the Jurisdiction of the Colony Courts erected under ye Authority of a Royal

Charter; I am aware that it was then conceived & urged by the Advocates of the Indians, that they were an Independent People & not subject to y^e^ Authority of the Colony Courts, so that y^e^ Suit was in effect like one between 2 Colonies, & it was added that y^e^ Colony was a Party itself, & had contributed to rob the Indians of their Lands, but I think that besides y^e^ notorious falsity of the last of these Charges, neither of the Arguments ought to have had any weight; if the Indians in Connecticut were to be considered as an independent People why not so, in every other Colony in America? whereas it is well known, that the Indians have always been considered as subject in all respects to every English Gov^t^ established in America, & liable both to their Legislature & Jurisdictions. had it not been so, the Colonies in the early ages would have been erected to little purpose, but it is impossible to doubt that this was intended in every Colony, when we consider that every Charter Gov^t^ has Power to make War on Indians, a fortiori they have Power to bind them by Laws in Time of Peace when living within their Bounds.

The Allegation that y^e^ Colony was or is a Party I take it to be in Truth ill founded, for I do not conceive that y^e^ Colony have acted otherwise than by making such Grants to Towns & Private Persons as were necessary by y^e^ Laws of the Colony to enable such Towns & Private Persons to purchase of y^e^ Indians, so that if we find those Persons in possession it must be presumed, after a length of Time that, they did purchase fairly, unless the contrary can be proved; it is true the Law for Quieting Possessions made in 1684 can not be pleaded to an Indian claim, but length of Possession, without being pleaded, & though no law for quieting Possessions had ever been made, is in common sense & common Justice Proof of a good Title founded on an honest Purchase.

However since this Commission did issue so long ago, & though, the Colony did not appeal to it, since they intimated by their Petition for a Review, I fear it is now too late to apply for any other Mode of Trial or to object to the

Jurisdiction, which is what excludes us from the benefit of a Jury. but should the Cause incline against us at y^e^ Hearing I shall certainly endeavour to procure that an Issue be directed to try the Matters of fact in America by a Jury.

I own I have always disapproved of Trials that exclude a Jury, & therefore have often wished that y^e^ Practice of bringing hither by Appeal Causes that have been tried by a Jury in other parts of New England, whereby verdicts are often set aside was altered.

I wrote to you before that Lord Mansfield expressed himself very much in our favour, when M^r^ Mason moved by his Counsel to revive y^e^ Cause.

I have had proposals made me to make an End of it, which I have listened to, but fearing they were made to ensnare me, & for y^e^ sake of getting a pretent for laying all the Delay on a Treaty for an Accomodation, which they might afterwards treat as an Admission on our Part that they had a Right to revive the Cause (which I have never admitted yet,) I declined giving any other Answer than that I would write over to Connecticut, & acquaint you with the Proposal, & that in y^e^ mean time I would not as your Agent, but as a Private Man forward what they wish, as much as I can.

The Proposal was that all y^e^ Mohegin & other Indians should be removed out of the Colony, upon a grant of Lands being obtained for them in a new Colony to be erected in the Ilinois Country, where they might be usefull, & that in consideration of y^e^ Expence of their Removal being defrayed, together with their being furnished with some Provisions for a year a two, & houses erected for them in that Country, either at y^e^ Cost of y^e^ Crown, the Inhabitants whose Lands they claim or, of y^e^ Colony, they would intirely quit claim not only to what they now demand but to the 4 or 5,000 Acres they are now in quiet Possession of, if they are in earnest in making this proposal it seems not unreasonable, I know some gentlemen from Connecticut think it would be acceptable in the Colony; but this is no Authority for me even to enter into a Treaty or much less to con-

clude. so I have declined going any further than promising not to press on the hearing, & to write over to you the proposal made me, which indeed has not been made in form. I am Sir with great Esteem

Yr most Obedt
hble Sert
RD JACKSON

[Indorsed] from Mr Jackson 6th of Febry 1767 Recd May 11th

THOMAS GAGE TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

New York Febry 9th 1767

Sir,

The Towns of New-Haven Wallingford and Brandford mentioned in your Letter of 31st of January will answer as well to quarter the King's Troops, as the Places proposed to you for that Purpose in my first Letter. I imagined it was of equal Concern to the Province in what Places they were quartered, and did not apprehend you had been troubled in the quartering of any of His Majesty's Troops Since the year 1756. The Troops will Sail from here tomorrow, commanded by Lieut Grandidier, who has orders to send the first Battalion consisting of one officer and Thirty Nine or forty Men to Wallingford: And to divide the Second Battalion consisting of One officer and about 92 Men, between New-haven and Brantford. As one of those Places will be without an officer, I shall endeavor to Send one as soon as possible, the better to preserve good order every where. The Men to be sent into your Province on this Occasion being only raw Recruits are without Arms; and will only carry a few Arms to be able to mount Guards, in order to keep their People quiet, and prevent their committing any outrage or Disturbance. And I dare say will in no shape disturb the Peace of His Majesty's Subjects. Provisions will also be sent with them, so that they will be as little Burthensome to the People as it is possible to make them. The officer Commanding will apply to you for any thing they may stand in need of, in which I am to de-

sire your Assistance, as well as your Endeavors to prevent the Soldiers being abused, or ill treated by the People.

I am, Sir, Your most obedient,
humble Servant,
THOS GAGE

Govr Pitkin Hartford
[Indorsed] Letter from Genl Gage Febry 9th 1767

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes from London on Feb. 12, 1767, to Governor William Pitkin mentioning the Mohegan Case, the ill reports of and unfavorable feeling regarding the Colonies, and sundry matters likely soon to come before Parliament. *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 214.]

JOHN POWNALL TO LACHLIN MACLEANE.*

To Lachlin Macleane Esqr

Sir,

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Shelburne, a Copy of a Letter to their Lordships from the Governor of the Colony of Connecticut, relative to the Manufactures set up there since the Year 1734.

I am, with great Respect,
Sir, your most obedient and
most humble Servant
J. POWNALL

Feby 13, 1767

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Hartford 14th Febrry 1767

Sr

I Receiv'd your kind Letter of Decembr 24th I am pleas'd with your convient Accomodations and agreable

* Secretary to the Earl of Shelburne.

Company while on Ship Board; and hope before this Time you have arriv'd safe in Great Britain. There is nothing new come to my Knowledge relative to the important Affair of the Mohegan Indians, I have no Doubt but you are furnish'd properly to Reprent the Cause in a very Advantageous Light, and am fully assured that nothing will be neglected on your part to bring it to a happy Issue, and that every other Object which concerns the Colony will be duely attended to. I am anxious for America, while the Parliament have under Consideration the State of the Colonies, the Result of which may possibly affect us in this Government. But if they are convinc'd, with me, that the Interest of Great Britain and her Colonies are inseperable they will not come into any plan to Imbarres us in our Trade, nor take from us the small Remainder of a Medium of Trade by any Scheme whatever, when they are already sure of having all we can possably spare in the Merchantile Way; which with chearfulness we have yielded them for their Emolument, and which is highly probable Will be the Case for the Future if the Genious of the people be duely attended to, and properly Encouraged.

I am unhappy in being Obliged to believe that our Charter has its Active Enemies in our Neighbour Governments as well as at Home, and that they are forming Schemes disadvantageous is equally True. Upon which Subject as well as some others I have wrote more largely to M^r^ Jackson in answer to sundry of his Letters, with whom I doubt not but you will consult and freely communicate your Sentiments as well as your Knowledge of Facts, to remove those Insinuations which are groundless, and I cannot but think enviously propagated. I wish the Divine presence may attend you while absent from your Native Land, and in due Time a safe and happy Return.

I am Sir with great Regard
Your Hum^ble^ Serv^nt^
W^M^ PITKIN

To W^M^ Sam^LL^ Johnson Esq^r^ &c

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

HARTFORD 14th Febry 1767

Sr

Your Letters of the 8th & 15th of November with one Inclosed without Date I Received; In which you Express a great Concern for the real good of this Colony and it gives me sensible pleasure, that your Abilities and Influence will be Improve'd to promote our true Interest. I hope with you that the Resolutions of Parliament will conclude happily for America. I think there is nothing more evident than this, that the Interest and real good of Great Britain and the Americans are inseperably connected, and therefore to put us, under the most Advantageous Circumstances for advancing our own Wealth, is but opening an effectual Door, to add to the Emolument of our Mother Country, to help Support, the Manufactuaries of Great Britain. This Branch of Trade has drawn from us, all that we have been able to spare; the Mechannick, the Farmer, and almost every person, in every Way of Life, contribute to the Increase and Support of it. To advance our Interest, in the commercial Way, is really nothing short of promoting their own. To Cramp us in our Measures for making our Remittance, is necessitating us to desist from so free a Use of foreign Manufactuaries. The Genious of the People here is for Agriculture which they will doubtless pursue, if Encouraged by a proper Market for their Produce, all which, or at lest almost all, is calculated for the West India Islands, by which we principally make our Remittance. Imbarrasments, on this Branch of our Trade, must necessarily be very disadvantageous, if not Fatal to us. I am greatly Oblidged to you for Notice given of Enemies to our Charter Privilidges; I am sensible many behold us rejoicing in them, with an Envious Eye, spirited, I Imagine with such a principle, are Industriously propogating False Reports to the Disadvantage of the Colony: Notwithstanding all that can be objected we have the Confidence to affirm, that his Majestys Interest has always been attended to and Regarded by us, as a ruling Principle our Loyalty to him, we

always gloried in. The Objections to our popularity and want of Strength in Governments, I am Confident, will appear altogether without Foundation. Plain Facts, are very forcible Arguments more so than Maxims, which none pretend to dispute. If we revert, but to the last War, which is Fresh in the Minds of our Enemies, who among all the Colonies shew'd a Firmer Attachment to his Majestys Interest, or more strenously Exerted themselves for the General Defence, when by Scituation there was no local Attachment, yet spirited with the pr[| Of Loyalty exerted ourselves, much beyond our proportion, and also beyond our Ability; in Effecting which, we not only gave Large Encouragement for the Inlisting Volunteers, but Impres'd great Numbers for the general Service; in addition to which a Tax was levied upon the Inhabitants, heavier than was known in the Colony, by any Man among us, now upon the Stage of Life, which has sunk the price of our real Estate, near one half; and all these delicate Affairs, as effectually done, I may with Truth say, as in any Government on the Continent. An impartial Enquiry into, and an unbias'd Judgment, upon such Facts as these, will very clearly evince that all the valuable Ends of Government are answer'd.

I am very sorry that because we are contiguous to Rhode Island, we should be call'd upon to answer for any of their Misconduct; the most that arises from such an Objection is, that the best Constitution or Form of Government, in the World, may be misused; to draw universal Consequences, from particular premises, is truly a very singular Way of arguing. Depending and Relying on your Skill & Fidelity, for the well Managing of our Affairs; I am

S^r^ with Esteem
Your most Obedient
& most Humble Servnt
W^m^ PITKIN

To Richard Jackson Esqr.
[Indorsed] Letter to M^r^ Jackson 14^th^ Febry 1767

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Inner Temple 20 Feb 1767

Sir

I have received from Mr Johnson both your favours, & shall pay the utmost Regard to their Contents. I have always entertained the warmest wishes to promote the Welfare of the College, & shall do all that lyes in my Power to procure Success to the Commission Mr Johnson brings on that Subject, though I must confess I have Apprehensions that he will not at first meet with so much as I wish, but Perseverance may procure it, when it is least expected.

I have always seen the Mohegin Affair in the Light you speak of it, as a very dangerous Precedent, by introducing a Summary Determination without a Jury on a Right of Freehold, under a Pretence that the Cause, is a Cause of ye Colony at large, whereas there is hardly a Colony in America where Mens Rights may not be disturbed under the same Pretent, that the Claim is the Claim of Indians against the Colony. However there may be a Colour for this where Indians have been recently dispossessed, & that on ye Frontiers too, of unlimited Colonies, as N. York & Virginia, there can be in my mind in that of Indians included almost in the middle of one bounded like Connecicut, but I fear the full force of this Argument is weakened by the Acquiescence of ye Colony in appealing against the first Return without then relying on this ground.

Yet as it has always been kept up by ye Possessors I think it may be, & will be urged by me with all the weight I can give it, jointly with the Length of Time against any further Proceeding for if the Commission was proper in 1704, nay if the Sentence was then a just one, who can say that the Possessors have not since that time Acquired good Titles & who ought to try it but a Jury.

If the Affair should seem likely to go against us I shall then again Press that the sevl Rights of every Freeholder may be tried by a Jury to be dr'wn by the Privy Council, & if the Danger of Partiality is objected, shall even request this may be a Jury from an adjoining Colony.

But I hope this will not be necessary, I think it very probable it may never be brought on, there is yet no Appearance of it. It is true the Lord Presidents illness has hitherto stood in the Way, & there are several other Causes before it, but some offers not from Mr Mason but from other Persons, look like a disposition to drop it. But it is necessary not to be lulled into Security. I am Sir

with great Esteem & Regard

Yr most Obed

hble Servt

RD JACKSON

[Indorsed] from Agent Jackson 20th Febry 1767 Receiv'd April 1767

THOMAS GAGE TO EARL OF SHELBURNE.*

(No 4)

New York Febry 20th 1767

My Lord,

* * * * * * * * * *

Your Lordship has been informed of the Arrival of a number of German Recruits in this Port for the Royal American Regiment, and of my Intention to quarter them in the Colony of Connecticut, till the Season should allow them to join their Corps. I wrote two Letters to Governor Pitkin on the Subject of quartering these Recruits, by the Authority of the Act of Parliament Soly, but the Governor would do nothing in the Affair, till authorized so to do by his Provincial Assembly, I have the honor to transmit your Lordship Copys of said Letters, with the Governor's Answers thereto. The Men are now quartered in the Towns where the Governor told me Provision would be made for their Reception.

* * * * * * * * * *

* In answer to letter of Dec. 11, 1766, on the pacification of the Indians.

I have the honor to be with the greatest Regard Respect, and Esteem,

My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient
and most humble Servant,
THOS GAGE

Right Honble Earl of SHELBURNE one of His Majty's Principal Secrys of State.

[Indorsed] New York 20th Febry 1767 Majr Genl Gage (No 4) R 25th March.

DANIEL LYMAN TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

NEW HAVEN March 2nd 1767

Sir,

The Troops, destined to be Quartered in this Town, Wallingford & Branford, by the Genll Assembly in their last Sessions, arived here on the 15th Feby and contrary to my Expectation brot their Subsistence with them in Provisions; the Officers informed me that they had Orders from Genl Gage to deal out to the Soldiers their Subsistance in Provisions which was at the Rate of 2½d Sterling pr Day; that the Soldiers Wages, since the Peace was made, was but 6d pr Diem, and that the Orders from the Crown was to make but 2½d pr Diem Drawback for their Subsistance, and therefore he could not pay any more than that sum to the Persons on whom they were Quarter'd or Billeted; but if those Persons choose to take their pay in Money Rather than Provisions he would write the Genll & made no Doubt the Genll would Order the Provisions to be shiped back again to New York: The Taverners on whom sd Soldiers are Quartered, so far as I am acquainted, chuse the Money, but think it not their Province to Determine the Sum pr Diem that they are to Receive from the Crown. I take this Method to Inform your Honr the Circumstances of this Affair; having confered with his Honr the Deputy Govr & ye Judges of the Superior Court; your Honr by inquiring of

those Gent may be more particularly informed. As the foregoing is so contrary to my understanding and, as I thought, Contrary to the Understanding of the Assembly, we are very much at a Loss how to conduct, hope for your Hons Direction, in the Affair; I am with the greatest Esteem your Hons Most Obt &

Huml Sert
DANL LYMAN

Honl Govr PITKIN

[Superscribed] To The Honle WM PITKIN Esqr Govr &c In Hartford

[Indorsed] Letter from Danll Lymon Esqr March 2d 1767

WILLIAM PITKIN TO THOMAS GAGE.

HARTFORD 10th March 1767

Sr

Your Favour of the 9th of Febry last I Receiv'd, and an Account from New Haven of the Arrival of the Troops there on the 15th of that Month, hear they Conduct with Decency and hope and trust they will have no Occasion of Complaining while quarter'd in the Colony. I have Receiv'd a Letter from New Haven dated the 2d of this Instant from one of the Justices in which he informs me, that the Officers gave him to understand that they had Orders from your Excellency to deal out to the Soldiers their Subsistence in provisions which was in the Sum of two pence Half penney Sterling pr Day, and could pay no more for Subsistence; Rendering as a Reason that the Orders from the Crown since the Peace, were that there should be no more draw Back, therefore could pay no more to persons subsisting them tho Bilitted on the Inholders, and in Licens'd Houses. An unexpected Turn; The Conclusion was with those who order'd their Quarters, and among the Inholders who receiv'd them, that the Allowance was very clearly Stated by the Act of Parliament to be paid by the Kings Officers, to Inholders Bilitting them, for one Foot Soldiers Diet, small Bear, Cyder or Rum & Water mix'd per Diem Four pence as in page 586 and onward in sd Act, strictly enjoining his

Majestys Officers to make payment of s^d^ Sum on penalties and Forfeitures therein expres'd, which Act continues in Force and is valid untill the 24 of this Month; it being a parliamentary Act, I presume it must have the same power to invalidate it. Besides, and more than this would observe it was pass'd since the peace was concluded and no mention made of Inholders having provision found the[ ] when Soldiers were Bilitted on them. Your Excellency must [I] Presume have understood, and view'd it in this Light, by your Letter of the 25^th^ of Janury last in which you observe that you cannot comprehend that the Colony is affected in any Shape as to Expence, there being no Barracks there is no Expence for Bedding Fuel &c but the Troops to be quarter'd in publick Houses in the same Manner as in England. Your Excellency was then well acquainted with the Allowance of four pence Sterling p^r^ Day; and so knowing are you to the State of the Country as to be fully qualified to determine, whether Men can be subsisted for less, or even for Four pence p^r^ Day. If there be any Orders from the Crown that Deductions from one Fund or another shall be made, it appears to me that it does not affect those who subsist the Men; having receiv'd them to Quarters, they look to the Act of Parliament to know what they are to furnish them with, and what Allowance they shall have, for so subsisting them, as the Act directs, this Act they rely upon. I must ask the Favour of your Excellency, that Orders may be given, that the Inholders, who are at the whole Expence of subsisting the Troops, may have allow'd them for each private Centinal Four pence Sterling p^r^ Day agreable to Act of Parliament, upon their doing well for the Men, and producing their Accounts.

I must ask the Favour of an Answer as soon as Circumstances will allow. I am with Esteem

Your Excellencys most Obed^nt^
& most Humble Servn^t^
W^M^ PITKIN

To his Excellency Tho^s^ Gage &c New York
[Indorsed] To Tho^s^ Gage Esqre 10^th^ March 1767

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes from London on March 19, 1767, to Governor William Pitkin making general observations about the Ministry and legislation likely to be considered, including American affairs. He states that there is talk that impositions upon the country will be met by impositions upon America; that there will be an effort by southern colonies to have their currency made legal tender; of a promise being given of instructions to prevent further interference with the North American fishery. Mr. Mason on behalf of the Mohegan Indians seems willing to accomodate (by exchanging) for a grant of land on the Ohio river; but is told by Johnson that he has no authority to enter into negociations of that nature, and that any such proposal must be submitted to the colonial government. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 217.]

THOMAS GAGE TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

New York 23d March 1767

Sir,

I am to Acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 10th of March, and am very glad to learn that the Troops behave Satisfactory at New Haven, and am to hope, there will be no reason for Complaints any where; There has been a mistake Somewhere relative to what You mention respecting Provisions. When the Soldier receives Provisions from the Crown, let the Ration cost what it may, the Drawback from the Soldier is only 2½d a Ration, but this is an Affair of the Crown only as You Observe, it's very clearly Expressed in the Act of Parliament which You Quote, that Four Pence per Day is to be Paid to Innholders for a Foot Soldiers Diet, Small Beer &ca, and when the Soldiers are fed by their Landlords, there is no doubt they are agreable to Act of Parliament, Entitled to the Sum of Four Pence ℔ Day for Each Soldiers Diet &ca. The only Question was, whether the Soldier Should draw the King's

Provisions, and buy his own Liquor, or whether he should be furnished by the Innholder on whom he was Billetted. with Meat and Drink; But I believe all matters Considered, it will be better for the Soldier to diet with his Landlord, and I have wrote to the Officer Commanding upon this Subject, and I am to hope before this Reaches You, that matters will be Settled to the Satisfaction of all Parties.

I have the Honor to be, with great Regard,
Sir, Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
THOS GAGE

Honble Govr Pitkin,
[Indorsed] Letter from Generll Gage March 23d 1767

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Inner Temple 10 Apl 1767

Sir

I have not had the pleasure of hearing from you, a great while, except by the Letters brought me by Mr Johnson, since whose Arrival, I have wrote but once, believing he would write more fully than I have leisure to do; & this I rely upon the more, as I endeavour to communicate to that gentleman every thing I think worthy his Notice, which I do with the more pleasure as I am convinced, he every way deserves the Confidence put in him by the Colony, & therefore deserves any Confidence I can put in him. He will inform you that great Resentment has been stirred up in this Country against some late Proceedings in the Provinces of New York & Massachusetts Bay, & which have many ways made the Situation of the friends of the Colonies uneasy, but I hope the Effects of this Resentment will blow over, as our Session draws near a Conclusion, & am particularly pleased that ye Conduct of the Colony of Connecticut merits & has received Commendation.

I informed you in a former Letter that American Business was likely soon to take up a good part of our Time in Parliament; East India Business has put it off, & possibly it might have gone over to another Session of Parliament

but for y^e^ ill humour brought on by certain Papers framed by the Assemblys of the Colonys I have just mentioned; At present the Design is, to bring in certain Bills for distinguishing what are called the gratefull from those, I am sorry to hear called ungratefull Colonies, & for providing a settled Maintainance for the Governors & Judges of all y^e^ Colonies in America; how far this last Measure is to go I know not, the Bill will not be brought in till the End of this Month, & I happened to be out of the House when it was mentioned, but I will take the liberty to say, that so far as it relates to Governors I shall oppose it, as I think the well being of the Colonies depends on Governors preserving the Good Opinion of their Assemblys, which if our Act Passes they will no longer be obliged to seek. perhaps the Case of Judges of Courts may be different, but if they have Provisions settled out of y^e^ Power of y^e^ People, they ought to be established for Life, so as to be out of y^e^ Power of y^e^ Crown, in those Colonies, where the Crown appoints them.

The Cause with y^e^ Mohegin Indians stands quite still, but wears a favourable Aspect. should it be carried on to hearing it may cost more Money than I may chance to have in my hands after all Bills are paid; but perhaps it may never be heard; I have not yet heard from you on the Subject of my Accounts, I have shown them to M^r^ Johnson & having the Vouchers all in my Custody in London from whence, it may perhaps be better not to remove them considering y^e^ hazards of y^e^ sea, I wish he had a proper Authority to examine & approve them if right. I have paid M^r^ Johnson under y^e^ Orders of y^e^ Colony £105 St. & am paying the Bills in Course, some of which are already beyond the Limits of my Advice I shall endeavour to further M^r^ Johnsons Application on behalf of y^e^ College as much as I can, & shall write to y^e^ President by y^e^ next ship. I have y^e^ honour to be with great Esteem

Sir y^r^ most Obed^t^
most hble Serv^t^
R^D^ JACKSON

[Superscribed] To The Honble WILL^M PITKIN Esq Governor of Connecticut in America at Hartford Connecticut New England Via New York

[Indorsed] from M^r Jackson 10^th aprill 1767 Rec^d 11^th of June 1767

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes at length from London on April 11, 1767, to Governor William Pitkin, stating the views of the Colony's counsel upon the Mohegan Case, which he has been studying and preparing; gives a long account of debates in the House of Lords upon American affairs, particularly the feeling of opposition against Massachusetts. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 222.]

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Inner Temple 17 Ap^r 1767

Sir

I have the greatest pleasure in assuring you that the Mohegin Cause has y^e most favourable Aspect but probably will not be heard 'til y^e Summer is advanced the Lord President continuing unable to attend. It will however be necessarily attended with much Expence especially as S^r Fletcher Norton who is Counsel with me for y^e Colony advises the bringing it on, though y^e Adversary should not do so, at least he advises the Discharge of y^e Order of Revival in which I have concurred with him, as we are both clearly of Opinion the Cause ought not to have been revived even had it been proper at first.

I have advanced to M^r Johnson £105 S^t & now transmit his Receipts for that Sum, this together with my Salary due in May M^r Life^s in August, & the necessary immediate Expences in the Suit will reduce y^e Balance in my hands to less than £200, in case y^e sum of £8500 be drawn for, & this sum of £200 will hardly finish y^e Suit & supply M^r Johnson^s Expences.

I shall assist Mr Johnson in his proposed Application on the behalf of Yale College with great Pleasure, & as far as lies in my Power, I know not, what Success he has yet had The numberless publick Subscriptions in this Country will I fear obstruct his good Intentions yet they may succeed in Time. I am Sir with great Truth & sincere Regard

Yr most Obedt
& Most hble Servt
RD JACKSON

[Indorsed] from Mr Jackson 17th of aprill 1767 Recd 11th of June 1767

THOMAS GAGE TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

New York April 19th 1767

Sir

I take the earliest opportunity of informing You, That the Recuits for his Majesty's Two Battalions of the Royal American Regiment quartered for some Months past in the province of Connecticut, The Season of the Year now permitting it, are under Orders to march from thence, and join their Respective Battalions.

I am with great Regard
Sir, Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
THOS GAGE

Honble Governor Pitkin Connecticut

[Indorsed] from Generll Gage 19th of aprill 1767

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes a long letter from London on May 16, 1767, to Governor William Pitkin, describing the debates in Parliament upon American affairs and the action to be taken against New York because of that colony's disobedience to Parliament's instructions; mentions the general feeling of hostility to the American colonies including Connecticut; but describes the feeling towards Connecticut as more favorable than towards the other colonies. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 228.]

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF SHELBURNE.

N° 1

HARTFORD 1st June 1767

Sr

I have Receiv'd your Lordships Letters of the 11th of Decembr and 13th of Janry last, Signifying to the Governor & Company of the Colony of Connecticut, his Majesty's Pleasure, that we Transmit to you an exact Estimate of the annual Charge of maintaining & Supporting the Entire Establishment of this Colony &c.

In Answer to those Letters, I am to inform you, that we have not any Funds other than a Tax raised on the Polls, and Estates both Real & Personal of the Inhabitants as Occasion requires for the Support of Government, out of which the Governor, the Deputy Governor and Treasurer are paid by a Grant of the General Assembly an annual Salary, and the other Officers of the Colony according to the Time they serve.

The annual Expence or Charge of the Colony in common Times amount to about the Sum of Six Thousand pounds Lawful Money. But as the greater part of the Officers employed in the Service of the Colony, are paid according to the Time they serve, by Reason of which it becomes sometimes more, and sometimes less, this renders it difficult exactly to Ascertain the Same. The late War hath Loaded us with such a Large & heavy Debt, that we are now so in Arrears, that we are put to great Difficulties to Discharge those Debts, and support the present Charge of Government.

With high Esteem & Regard
I am my Lord
Your Lordships most Obedient
& most Humble Servnt

WM PITKIN

To The Right Honourable The Earl of SHELBURNE one of Majestys principal Secretaries &c. London

[Indorsed] Hartford, Connecticut 1st June 1767. Govr Gitkin. (N° 1) R 2d Octr

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF SHELBURNE.*

N° 2.

HARTFORD 1st June 1767

Sr

I have Receiv'd your Lordships Letters of the 11th of Decembr & 13th of Janry last, signifying to the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut, his Majestys Pleasure, that we Transmit to you, a full and clear Account of the Manner of Imposing Quit-Rents, & of levying them, as also the Mode of Granting Lands in this Colony &c.

In answer thereunto, I am to inform you, that the Lands of this Colony were granted by Royal Charter, to the Governor and Company, their Associates & Assigns, Freemen of the Corporation, not Subject to any other Quit-Rents, save only rendering to His Majesty, his Heirs & Successors, One Fifth part of the Oar of Gold & Silver found in the Colony. The Mode of granting Lands here hath been, to divide the same into Townships, and grant to a certain Number of persons, the Right and property of the same in Fee Simple, and make out to the proprietors of Each Township a patent given under the Hand of the Governor, with the Seal of the Colony thereto affixed; Therein reserving to his Majesty his Heirs & Successors, the one Fifth part of the Oar of Gold & Silver found therein, which is done without Fee or Reward. Which Grants & patents have been long since made & finish'd, and there Remains no ungranted Lands within the Bounds of this Colony, East of the Government of New York.

With high Esteem & true Regard
I am my Lord
Your Lordships most Obedient
& most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To The Right Honourble The Earl of SHELBURNE one of his Majestys principal Secretaries &c London.

[Indorsed] Hartford, Connecticut, 1st June 1767. Govr Gitkin (N° 2) R 2d Octr

*The original drafts of this and the preceding letter of the same date, which are preserved in the Massachusetts Historical Society (*Trumbull Papers*, II. 150, 151.), are in the handwriting of Col. Jonathan Trumbull and signed by Pitkin. The drafts were formally approved by both houses of the General Assembly.

JEREMIAH MILLER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

To the Honb^e the General Assembly now Setting at Hartford.

May it Please this Honb^e Assembly

On an information made to Duncan Stewart Esq^r Coll^r of the Port of New London he found and Seized Fourteen hh^ds of Foreign Rum, which by an Act of Parliament made the 4^th year of this Present Majesty is Entirely Prohibited & Declared to be forfited &c. And as the Law Stands in our Colony Law Book p^a 207 to 210 Rum is Subjected to a Duty, and if Landed before the Duty is Paid or Secured to be paid Shall be Seized Condemned &c in Pursuance of which I thought it my Duty to Make Seizure of the Said Rum.

Also When our Law was made there was Scarcely any Such thing as Forreign Rum known or heard of and the duty is laid on all rum without Distinction; if there was an act made in addition to and Explination of this act Viz^t. That it is to be understood all Rum that may be legally Imported our Law would Stand Clear and no ways Interfere w^th the Act of Parli^a there being no other act of Parli^a relating to rum but the Before Mentioned and as this Altogether respects the Colony, in Confidence of the Direction of this Honb^e Assembly it is Humbly Submitted by your Honors most

Obedient Serv^t
JER MILLER

Hartford 1 June 1767.

JEREMIAH MILLER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

To the Honb^e The General Assembly Now Setting at Hartford.

May it Please your Honours

Some of the Principal Merchants of the Colony have desired me to move to this Honb^e Assembly that His Hon^r the Gov^r might be desired to write the agent to Send on Acco^t

of the Colony a Small Number of Mediteranean Passes for the Use of the Trade of this Goverment, they Say that whenever any of our Vessels are Bound to any Part of Europe or Africa they are obliged to Send as far as New York or Boston for one, and Sometimes they Cannot get it there, as they generally keep them for the Use of their own Vessels; and whenever they are Obtained they Cost about £4 L money besides the Charge of Sending for them wch I suppose is double what they would Cost if they were got from home, and as the Merchants would willingly & thankfully pay for them, I know of no objection, but that of there being Some on hand when a New Impression Comes out, but as the Present Passes are New I should think there Could be no manner of loss in Sending for So Small a Number as half a dozn and when they are disposed of it Can be Easier Determined what Number may be wanted yearly for the Govermts Use. All which is humbly Submitted

By your Honours
Most Obdt Servt
JER MILLER

Hartford 1 June 1767.

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[In a letter from William Samuel Johnson to Governor William Pitkin, dated London, June 9, 1767, he incloses votes of the House of Commons relative to duties upon several articles imported into America; describes debates in the House of Lords upon the Massachusetts Act of Indemnity; mentions refusal of Georgia to comply with orders and Acts of Parliament, and states that even the friends of the Ministry have found it necessary to agree to some action to show the authority of Parliament. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 236.]

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

HARTFORD 12th June 1767

Sr

I am Favour'd with sundry of your Letters and have very sensible satisfaction that in them all, your Concern for the Interest of this Colony is plainly discover'd. It is with the utmost Anxiety that I hear of Plans forming in Parliament which if Effected will in their Consequences deprive us of the happiest part of our Constitution. I always Rejoice in the View, that this Colony in its present Establishment, is in the best Scituation to serve his Majestys general Interest, a hearty Concern for which the Colony have shewn in all their Conduct and given very full Evidence of in the last War. And in January last, when apply'd to by General Gage for Quartering Troops upon us, which in Reality, is a very delicate Affair; Notwithstanding which, as soon as possible the Needful provision was made, fully answering his Requisition. Which was done with the deepest Sense of our Obligations to promote his Majestys Service.

The Resolves of other Governments, I am informed, have displeased our Real Friends, and given those of a different Character their desired Advantage against us; however ungrateful they may be Termed, I hope this Colony will never be so odiously Charactarized with any Colour of Truth. After I Receiv'd your Letter hinting a proposal of an Accommodation with the Mohegin Indians, in order to Return an Answer to which, I waited the Sessions of the General Assembly, to whom I communicated your Letter; but have now no Authority to say any thing upon the Subject Relative to an Accomodation. Your thorough Acquaintance with the Cause in general renders it needless, to say further upon it: only to recommend your persevering Vigilence in the Cause, with my Wishes for a happy Issue. I am desired by the Assembly of the Colony to procure Twelve Mediterranean Passes for the Benefit of Trade in this Government, and Charge the Same to the Colony's Account; which I would ask the Favour of you to purchase

and Transmit to me the Earliest Oppertunity; If they Expire within The Space of one Year, please to procure but Six and send the Cost of them. I herewith Transmit an Accounts of Bills of Exchange drawn on you amounting to £799: 4 5½ which will leave in your Hands a Ballance of £507 15 6½ of the Sum proposed to be drawn, for which Sum no more Bills will be sold, but be subjected to drafts for the Use of the Colony as Occasion shall require.

With high Esteem and true Regard
I am Sir
Your most Obedient
most humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To Richard Jackson Esq &c London
[Indorsed] Letter to Mr Jackson 12th June 1767

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Hartford 17th June 1767

Sr

Your favours of the 12th of Febry, 19th of March and 11th of aprill I Recd and much Rejoyce at your Safe arivall in London and the Kind Reception Mr Jackson gave you who in a Letter to Me has said more in your faver than your Modesty will perhaps hear bare Repeating the Important Affair of the Mohegan Indians is still an object of Great Concern among us but wee flatter our selves that Law and Equity are so Clearly on the side of the Collony they will for ever outweigh whatever Can be thrown into the Scale on the opposite Side the Proposition for an Accomodation you Mentioned I have No athority from the Assembly to write any thing about and there is Nothing New that has Come to my Knowledge since you Have been Chargd with the Case that is worth Noticing there is in Mr Jacksons Hands £507 15 6½ of the £8500 which was to be Sould for Billes of Exchange which will Lye for the Goverments Use for future Emergencies.

I am Hartily Grieved at the Difering Sentiments of the Ministry espeshally in Matters in which wee Seem to

Nearly Interested, the Plans you Hinted, I Hope Have not Taken Place to our Disadvantage but it is with Great ansiety wee wait the Result of Parlment Respecting America. I am sensible it is Hard at so great a Distance as London to erase a Belief in Men's Minds that our Present Constitution is found upon the Best Plan for ever to fix our attention to His Majesties Intrest as well as Loyalty to His Person and Famely tho the Resolutions of New york and Boston Relative to the Billetting His Majesties Troops have made them Obnoxious I Trust the Loyallty of Connecticutt will Not be forgoten when upon applycation of General Gage in January Last Relative to Billetting some Troops I immedately Convend the Councell for advice who Considering the State of the People Without Barracks and No Act of Assembly appropriateing any Moneys for Building or Billitting Gave their opinion to Call the Assembly which was Done in the Most expeditious Manner, and the General Requisition fully Complyed with. I am Pleased to think that obstructions will be removed which have heretofore Prejudiced New England Fishery a Branch of Business so specially advantageous for making Remittances to Great Britain for whatever Disadvantage they Lay upon our fishery and Transporting to Naturall Markits will finally Prevent so Much Money Turning into their Hands.

I have upon the Desire of the Assembly sent to Mr Jackson for Twelve Medeteration Passes at the Cost of the Collony if upon examination you find they expire in one year from Date I think Proper that but Half the Number be sent at Present

Your Letters I Can assure you I Receive with Pleasure Hope you Not be Discouraged tho the Inteligence I Give you is Comprised in Narrow Compass you will Consider you are in a Larger field and More fertile Soil for Publick Inteligence than I am.

With Esteem and True Regard
I am Sr your Most Obiant
and Most Humble Servant
WM PITKIN

To WM SAMLL JOHNSON Esqr &c London
[Indorsed] Letter to Wm Saml Johnson Esqr June 17th 1767

FROM DALR. INGRAM TO CHARLES LOWNDES.

Arundell Street 19 June 1767

Sir

In Consequence of Directions from The Lords of the Treasury to enquire into the Reasons for the Absence of George Mills Comptroller of the Customs at New Haven in Connecticutt, I beg leave to say, the reason is on Account of his own private and Family Affairs concerning his part in an Estate.

I am with great Respect
Sir Your most Obedient
humble Servt
DALR. INGRAM
Attorny to George Mills

To Charles Lowndes Esqr Secretary to The Right Honble The Lords of the Treasury

[Indorsed] 19 June 1767 Doctor Ingram for Mr Mills Comptrolr of Newhaven in Connecticut: receed the same day Read June 19 1767

EARL OF SHELBURNE TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Whitehall July 11th 1767

Gentlemen

I send You herewith for your Information Copy of an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament, Intituled "An Act for granting certain Duties in the British Colonies & Plantations in America; for allowing a Drawback of the Duties of Customs upon the Exportation, from this Kingdom of Coffee & Cocoa Nuts of the Produce of the said Colonies or Plantations for discontinuiug the Drawbacks payable on China Earthen Ware exported to America, & for more effectually preventing the Clandestine Running of Goods in the said Colonies & Plantations."

I am with great Truth & Regard
Gentlemen Your most obedient
humble Servant
SHELBURNE

Governor & Company of Connecticut.
[Indorsed] Letter from Lord Shelborn 11th of June 1767
Recd October 11th 1767

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes from London on July 13, 1767, to Governor William Pitkin describing political conditions in England. He says that the recent Act imposing heavy duties on certain articles, and applying the produce of these duties towards defraying the charges of the administration of justice and the support of the civil government within any or all of the Plantations, will be considered as of the most dangerous consequence to the Colonies. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 239.]

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

5 Aug 1767

Sir

I duly received your last favours including advices of Bills drawn down to No 182 since which I have accepted & paid many Bills of further Dates & Nos the advice of which I am every day expecting; but a good deal of time having elapsed since the first of these Bills arrived; though the Expectation that ye Letter containing the further Advice might likewise contain somewhat else that I might wish to answer has hitherto prevented my writing I do not think it proper to delay writing any longer.

I should not have omitted any opportunity of writing but that I take for granted Mr Johnson frequently writes, & every thing that I conceive, it may be of use to ye Colony to know I acquaint him with. I before informed you he had not only examined my Accounts with the Colony, but had compared them with the Vouchers, since which I have the pleasure of finding that your Account tallys with mine as far as the Balance of £9092 15s. the Subsequent part of this Account as far as £5400 he has likewise since ex-

amined. In one of my former I have transmitted Mr Johnsons Receipt for £105, & in my next shall inclose 3 more of his Receipts for £157 10s to both which adding what is due to Mr Life & myself for ye past year there will remain but little for ye Expences of the Mohegin Suit, in case the intire sum of £4500 in Bills are sold & brought for acceptance.

I rely on Mr Johnsons having acquainted you that the Suit stands quite still, Mr Mason & those concerned for him not having set the Cause down the last time when the Privy Council sate & there is now little Appearance that the Council will sit again before the Winter. We flatter ourselves that there will be little change in Public Affairs. I am with great truth & Esteem

Yr most obedt
& most hble Servt
RD JACKSON

[Superscribed] To The Honble William Pitkin Esq Govr of Connecticut at Hartford by the New York Packet

[Indorsed] Mr Jacksons Letter August 5th 1767 Recd 11th of October 1767

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Inner Temple 8 Sepr 1767

Sir

Having not heard from you a long time, this Serves only to congratulate you on your reelection, & to inclose 2 other Receipts of Mr Johnsons for the sum of 100 Gus, I have lately paid him the further sum of 50 Gus, but have not yet procured his Receipt having sent him a Bill out of the Country for that Money, the Amount I have already paid him is £257 10s which added to £150 due for ye past to Mr Life & myself & the further Expences of the Suit, & the whole being deducted from the sum of £1040 which was the Balance upon the Bill Account there will remain little more than £500 in my hands so that should the sum of £608 in Bills which remains of ye £8500 to be drawn & brought for Payment, there will remain little or nothing

even for the further support of Mr Johnson, much less for carrying on the Suit. However I shall answer all Bills so long as any Money remains in my hands.

I have a pleasure in subjoining that the Conduct of the Colony in the quartering of ye Kings Troops was approved by the Kings Ministers & by the Houses of Parliament. I flatter myself I need not say, I took all the pains in my Power to prevent the ill Effect of some Impressions that had been made a little unfavourable to ye Colony. I am with sincere Esteem

Sir Yr most Obedt
most hble Servt
RD JACKSON

If no more Bills appear to keep the Acct open, I shall transmit my further Acct from the foot of ye former by my next.

I had mentioned in a former Letter (to which having had no Answer) I suppose it might miscarry, that having made many Representations to Ld Shelburne upon the Subject of the Oppressions & unjustifable Vexations of the Commodore on the Newfoundland Station; which had been so justly complained of by many Masters of N England ships I have long ago before his sailing received the most positive Assurances that the strictest Orders had been given him to avoid the same Conduct for the future.

not having lately received any List of Bills drawn I have inclosed the acct of what my Banker has paid for me since the last list I received but of which I have no Advice; I have described them as I have the Acct from him, it may not be quite right in ye Names.

[Indorsed] Letter from Mr Jackson 8th of September 1767
Recd Novr 1767

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[From London on September 15, 1767, William Samuel Johnson wrote a short and general letter to Governor William Pitkin. It is not expected that the Mohegan case can come on before November. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 242.]

LACHLIN MACLEANE TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

WHITEHALL October 8th 1767.

Gentlemen,

By the Directions of the Earl of Shelburne, I send You the inclosed Copy of an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament, Intituled "An Act to enable His Majesty to put the Customs and other Duties, in the British Dominions in America, and the Execution of the Laws relating to Trade there, under the Management of Commissioners to be appointed for that Purpose, and to be Resident in the said Dominions."

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient,
humble Servant,
L. MACLEANE

Governor & Company of Connecticut

[Indorsed] Letter from Secretary of State 8th of October 1767 Recd 10th of Febry 1768

DUTIES COLLECTED IN CONNECTICUT.

An Account of the Duties collected and of the Fines and Forfeitures recovered in the several Ports now under the American Commission between the 10th Day of October 1766 and the 10th day of October 1767 distinguishing the Duties on each Commodity, and whether the Fines and Forfeitures were recovered by the Officers of the Navy or the Customs, together with an Account of the Expences attending the receipt of the said Duties.

Names of Ports	Duties received from the 10th of October 1766 to the 10th of October 1767 on											
	Foreign Bro: Sugars			Madeira & other Wines			Wines from G: Britain			Foreign Molasses		
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
New Haven	44	12	8							78	12	8
New London	187	16	6							404	7	1

Foreign Indigo £ s d	Foreign Coffee £ s d	Silks, Stuffs & Cambricks Calicoes, Lawns	British Coffee £ s d
			2 5 6

British Pimento £ s d	Rice £ s d	Tobacco £ s d	Other enumerated Commodities
		121 7 0	

Kings share of Fines Forfeitures & Seizures Recover'd by		Amount of the Groce rect of each port
Officers of the Navy	Officers of the Customs	£ s d
		123 5 4
		715 16 1

Established and Incidental Charges of Management in each port

Established & Incidental Salarys £ s d	Waiters & preventive Officers £ s d	Tides Men £ s d	Gauging £ s d	Weighing £ s d
110 0 0	25 0 0	14 4 0	7 1 0	4 2 0
140 0 0		57 4 8	24 18 3	3 4 0

Printing £ s d	Postage £ s d	Boat & Men £ s d	Office Rent £ s d	Fireing £ s d
6 8 0	6 0 4½		10 0 0	6 0 0
20 19 4	14 17 2	45 16 8	14 13 6	9 16 1

Stationary £ s d	Law Charges £ s d	Other Articles £ s d	Amot of the Charges of Managemt £ s d	Amot of the Neet produce of each Port £ s d
2 0 0		42 17 10¾	233 13 3¼	
8 11 9	19 19 11	48 6 6	408 7 10	307 8 3

Charges of Management exceeding the produce £ s d
110 7 11¼

RICHARD JACKSON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Inner Temple 19 Oct 1767

Sir

I have never lost sight of the Views you first opened to me, on the Subject of a Direct Trade from Connecticut to Great Britain, & having sometime conceived hopes that the Situation we are now in, altered somewhat since we correponded on this Point, has brought the prospect a little nearer; I took out the Letters I had the pleasure of receiving from you some years since & perused them again.

I can not help thinking as you do that the attaining this Point is of the utmost Importance both to the Colony & the individuals concerned in its Trade, & that every favourable Opportunity ought to be seised that advances the gaining of it.

The Difficultys heretofore have chiefly arose from the Want of Commodities fit for the purchasing what the Inhabitants of the Colony want in England.

You very properly proposed to remove this Difficulty by the means of such part of the Mast Trade as we can contrive to get for the Colony, by Iron & by Hemp. The first of these Articles will be always uncertain because it must depend on the will & Opinion of the Contract[or] I have Mr Hennikers promise that should he continue the Contract, he will bring part of his Masts by way of the River Connecticut, in case he can be served as cheap as from the Eastward. The 2d Article promises fair, but will require increase both of Capital & Experience to bring it to a profitable perfection, many Opulent Men have been ruined by it in England. Iron Oar is wanting no where, great Command of water we have in many places the only advantage you have over us is in your plenty of fuel, (of which, by the by, I fear you make too improvident a Waste) & this perhaps is compensated by our superior command of Money, & more improved Skill. I do not say this to discourage attempts in the Iron way, I am convinced that in the better sort, fitt for steel, you may in time far exceed us, if not Sweden by your plenty of wood because much of ours is now run with Pit Coals.

you observe justly that Hemp produced in America is little likely for many years to become a Commodity in England the Demand & Consumption among yourselves so far exceeds your Growth, it cannot reasonably be expected it should for many years feel the Effects of our Parliamentary encouragement, which can only benefit such growers as send their Hemp to England; you therefore wish encouragement was given to y^e^ grower, whatever should become of his Hemp, & this has been given by y^e^ Society for encouraging Arts &c, (of which I am myself a member & promoted this particular Proemium) but though I was 3 years ago informed that a gentleman of Ashford in your Colony had sown 90 Acres, to whom I took particular Pains to communicate this Proemium, I have not had the pleasure to hear he ever applied for it.

But I set out with saying I thought the prospect nearer than it had been. Several Commodities that have long been or may become the Produce of Connecticut or be procured by its Inhabitants, are more likely than before to find a Vent in England, or in such neighboring Countries, as have always had Credit in England or can procure Credit there by their Gold & Silver.

Corn of every species is become very dear & has been so for 2 years in Great Britain, & is consequently so in Spain Portugal & Ireland: this Price is likely to continue at least one year, & I have strong reasons for believing it never will be long so low as it has been. Wheat & Indian Corn are both Commodities of the Colony, Barley may become so in some part of it, & all 3 are always in demand in Portugal, as the 2 last are now in Great Britain.

I cannot help observing that great Losses have been too frequently sustained by Gentlemen concerned in American Wheat shipped for Europe, by its being shipped in Bulk, & by the damage done to it by the Sea Water in its passage; so that, I have known several Cargo^s^ of it sent away from Leghorn by Order of the Government as being supposed unfit for human use. This we prevent here by shipping our Wheat in Sacks, which generally are sufficient

to prevent the Mischief; perhaps they might not do in a longer Passage, besides you probably have not the materials & Casks would cost you less & bring a better price when sold in Europe either with or without the Wheat. I know that Casks at present are used for Wheat manufactured into Flour in America, but I would advise the sending unground Wheat in Casks too, unless it be thought better, as perhaps it would be, to grind all the Wheat first & send it in Flour, & this Business I could wish to be carried on in your Colony without the Intervention of New York.

But Potash seems particularly to demand Attention as this Commodity in no degree interferes with Great Britain and will certainly if its Use here can be established in preference to the foreign be a permanent Branch of Trade, the Americans seem to want some Advice on this head with respect to the making this Commodity; 2 Members of our Society have tried Experiments on their Potash with the View of discovering how it may be improved a Number of their Books I delivered to Mr Johnson some time since, supposing he could more easily secure the safe arrival & distribution of them in the Colony, I am glad to hear he sent them to you. I shall procure & send some others to the Western part of the Colony. Besides some ill Qualities that have been discoverd in the American Potash, (which are compensated perhaps by some advantages over the foreign) this Article labours under no other difficulty than the lowness of ye Price, an inconvenience inseparable from a Competition in a Trade the Competitor has long enjoyed.

But I have greater hopes still, from the Effects of our late Bounty on Oak & Pine Timber & Boards. I flatter myself, that nothing, but a little acquaintance with the manner in which this Trade is here carried on & the kinds of Timber we use, & a little Attention to the Scantlings required in this Country are necessary besides that Caution which the Americans ought to use in chusing, felling & cutting out even what they build with themselves for the establishing this Trade. Hitherto, I am told it has been the Practice to fell the first Trees that come to hand at any

Season of ye year, & immediately saw them out & convert the Board or Plank to building Houses or Ships. Every sort of Oak is felled without distinction (at least frequently) though the White Oak & Rock Oak are only fit to bear the weather. Besides America is covered with a Forest, a very small part of which has ever been cleared since the Deluge. No wonder that the greater part of the Trees are superannuated & [ ] every Tree that seems fair to the Eye & that will saw out into apparently firm Board is not fit for Uses that require strenght & toughness. A Tree retains almost all its Beauty many years, perhaps a Century, after it has attained its Perfection, without apparent Decay & yet grows really worse for many uses every Day. after this it shall begin to show marks of Age at its Top & yet neither rot nor dye for Ages; these Distinctions are well known in England but perhaps are less thought of in America. Were your Oak & Pine Timber especially the former chosen before it loses its strength & is in full Vigour felled only in the Winter, carefully sawn of uniform Scantling from one End to ye other, (whereas I am told the New England Board is frequently of 5 or 6 different thicknesses) & the Board or square Timber seasoned perhaps floated after it is sawn the reputation of American Lumber might be retrieved in England & ye produce of it become a pincipal return for European Goods. It is incredible what quantities of Oak Fir & Pine Plank Board & Timber are brough hither from Norway, Sweden, Russia, Prussia & Germany, I have recommended the Observation of this to Mr Johnson. I know a single Merchant in a small Port in Norfolk that has frequently a stock of this foreign Timber of above £10000 Value. The Quantity dayly lessens in those foreign Countries the Price with us is doubled in my Memory; our own Stock is so far exhausted as to bear no proportion to our Consumption the Bounty given by Parliament I am told will go a good Way in paying the Freight, & a ship load of this Timber ballasted with Iron may ship & Cargo be all readily turned into Money, were but ye Credit of American Timber once established as I think the

Care of a Colony shd be employed to do, in case individuals do not think it worth their while. I am sensible that the Timber of our Colony is probably softer in Nature & not so good as that of Canada, but with Attention to what I have hinted I am sure it must be fit for many uses, that wood is here greatly wanted for.

But could the Colony acquire a share of ye Cod Fishery the Sale of this Commodity in Italy Spain & Portugal would be exactly the same as Money in England & would serve as effectually to pay for a Cargo of British Manufactures. you can fit out a Schooner as well as the People of Marblehead & victual it better. I know some attempts of this sort were made last year & frustrated by the unwarrantable Conduct of the Commodore on that Station, but I am assured by ye greatest Authority there will be no Danger of this for the future.

I have dwelt the longer on the Subject of Timber because there has been lately such a Concurence of Circumstances in the favour of this Trade. The Increased scarcity or our own Growth the Augmentation of ye Consumption the prodigious Advance of Price, the Bounty given by Parlt & yet all the Prospect opened by this Concurence has been in a great measure defeated by ye Prejudices of People against new things, the Countenance given to those prejudices by some real Defects hitherto met with in the American timber, & the Interest of the persons who now have the trade in their hands. These Prejudices may be, by care, & perserverance, removed & they are worth removing; your Patriotism & publick Station will excuse the trouble I give you. I hope your Son Mr Trumble whom I knew in England is well. I am with sincere Esteem Sir

Yr most Obedt
most hble Servt
Rd JACKSON

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes from London on November 13, 1767, to Governor William Pitkin concerning

the Mohegan Case, the funds of the Colony in Richard Jackson's hands and General Thomas Gage's demand of quarters for troops; also as to political affairs in England. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 244.]

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

HARTFORD 17th of Novmbr 1767

Sr

Your Favours of May June & July I Receiv'd; and very gratefully accept your Friendly & free Inteligence of the procedure of publick Affairs. In a Day wherein America is a principal Topick of Conversation, you may well Judge we are attentive to what passes in Great Britain, and anxiously wait the Result, of proposed Regulations. To hear of plans formed, designedly avoided and laid aside, because they would please the Americans; to hear of persons exerting themselves, to subdue us, who always profess to be a Loyal people this affords a very gloomy Aspect, and is Discouraging Tidings from a Mother Country. The Americans have been firmly attach'd to Great Britain, nothing I Trust but Severity, will dissolve that Union. Fond are we of British Manufactuaries Modes and Fashions, to support ourselves, in which we have exerted ourselves to the utmost. The Fruit of our Labour and Industry, has freely been parted with to help to support the Merchant, Seaman, the Manufactor, and the Mechanick in Great Britain: The Trade thither vastly increasing. If Stagnated in any Measure, what the Occasion. Lenient Measures have heretofore, prov'd effectual for securing our all; this is a tried and approv'd Method: to secure it for the future doubtless the Like Measures, would prove most Effectual. It has always been esteem'd, the best plan in States, to come into Schemes, most agreable to people, to make their Interest subserve the good of the publick. If upon Trial it is found That a people left to their own choice, will contribute their all, for the publick Emolument; is it not Sufficient ? To observe particularly upon your Letters; is what I Trust will

not be expected; Tender delicate points are many of them; but thus far I can say; that as to particular points of prudence, with Regard to our Conduct, I am fully of your Sentiments.

You hinted in one of your last, of Acts of parliament being sent from the publick Offices; as yet I have receiv'd but the 46th Chapter — Commissions for Collecting his Majestys Customs, arriv'd at Boston

When you will accomplish the Business you are charg'd with, appears by your Writing to be uncertain; and I have no new Instructions from the Assembly to communicate to you. Hope for a happy Issue in this Affair, and that things will wear a more chearful Countenance, with Regard to America in general. I am

S^r^ with sincere Esteem and true Regard
Your most Obed^nt^
& most hum^ble^ Serv^nt^
W^m^ PITKIN

To W^m^ Sam^ll^ Johnson Esqr &c London

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

Hartford 17th Nove^mbr^ 1767.

*S^r^*

Your Letters of August & Sept^mbr^ I Receiv'd in the last of which two Receipts of M^r^ Johnsons inclosed, with a Copy of Bills of Exchange from 182 to 202 and have the pleasure to inform you, that the Account entirely agrees with mine as to Numbers and sums. A Copy of which I sent in June last, but least it should fail, now send a Duplicate of my Letter and Account. What remains after the Payment of these Bills, is to be improv'd for the Colonys Use, as Occasion may require. In a Day, wherein the Credit of America runs low, it affords a pleasing thot to be favour'd in our Fishery at Newfoundland, this Care is kindly receiv'd, and now Trust after such Orders given not to make any Depradations, we shall not be disappointed in

our Hopes. It also gives me pleasure to hear that the Conduct of Connecticut, with Regard to quartering the Kings Troops has been approv'd off; and it likewise gives me pleasure to hear we have Friends, exerting themselves, to take off, ill Impressions, and to remove groundless Jealosies, from the Minds of the people of our Mother Country. Would here gratefully acknowledge, your Kindness in particular, by endeavouring to set the Colony in a true Light, thus to prevent Marks of Resentment. Repeated Instances of your Regard for the Welfare of the Colony, give us Reason to Hope, your Influence will be Employ'd for our future Emoluments. The Mohegin Affair is yet a Matter of Concern with us, how long before it will come to an Issue, it seems is very uncertain. I Trust nothing will be wanting to set the Cause in a true Light, whenever it shall be brought Forward; and that Truth held up to View, will Influence in the Decision.

I am with true Regard and sincere Esteem
Sr, Your most Obednt
& most Humbl Servnt
Wm PITKIN

P S. I thot best to query whither there is not a small Mistake in the Cast of Mr Johnsons Account. the Minute in your Letter is £100. His Receipts £105.

To Richard Jackson Esqr &c London.

[Indorsed] Letter to Richd Jackson Esqr Novr 17th 1767

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Hartford 4th Decembr 1767

Sr

I wrote the 17th of June, which I apprehed you had not Receiv'd, when you sent your last of Septembr. lest it should fail I now inclose a duplicate.

The Death of Mr Chancellor Townsend we are advertiz'd off; by publick Inteligence and private Information, I trust we may truely say, a great Man is fallen. For raising up able Statesmen, & wise Councellors, prudently and vig-

orously to plan and prosecute, for the best Interest of the Nation and Land, we wait in Hope, upon the Disposer of Events.

What the Issue of the new Resolves as to the Indians will be, is not for me to determine; that it was very burdensom to them, I was not fully appriz'd of. What donations have been made by them, have not pass'd thro the Hands of any in this Colony. In all the Congresses, the Government has been at the whole Expence, and the presents made them, entirely out of our own Stock. The first Congress in which the Colony was concern'd, if I mistake not, was in or near the Year 1693, and from that Time so long As they were held. Whatever was expended by Commissioners was of our own; and trust, should the Affair be enquired into, we shall be acquitted of being influential, in rendering of it Burdensom.

The Mohegan Cause, by your last then undetermin'd, but Hope soon to be inform'd further relating to it.

With true Esteem & Regard I am
S^r^ Your most Obed^nt^
& most Humble Serv^nt^
W^m^ PITKIN

To W^m^ Sam^ll^ Johnson Esq^r^ &c London

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson in a letter to Governor William Pitkin dated London, December 26, 1767, writes at some length regarding the feeling in England about the action taken by several of the American colonies; but makes no reference to Connecticut. The political situation in England is discussed, and the statement made that the proposed appointment of the Earl of Hillsborough as Secretary of State for the Colonies will throw all American affairs into a new channel. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 247.]

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

N° 2.

WHITEHALL January the 23d 1768.

Gentlemen,

Great Difficulties having frequently occurred in the Transaction of Business relative to His Majesty's Colonies in America, from the Want of complete Collections of the Laws of the said Colonies; I have it in Command from His Majesty to desire You will, by the first Opportunity, transmit to me, to be laid before His Majesty, a complete Collection, either in Manuscript, or Print, of the Laws of the Colony under your Government, down to the present Time. And You will be pleased to give Directions that such Collection be properly authenticated under the publick Seal of Your Government.

I am, with great Truth & Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
humble Servant.
HILLSBOROUGH*

Governor & Company of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] Secretary of States Letter N° 2 Jan^ry 23d 1768

MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SPEAKER OF CONNECTICUT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Copy

Province of the Massachuset's Bay.

February 11th, 1768.

Sir,

The House of Representatives of this Province have taken into their serious Consideration the great Difficulties that must accrue to themselves & their Constituents by the operation of the several Acts of Parliament imposing Duties & Taxes on the American Colonies.

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*This circular, as is stated on the draft in the State Paper Office, was sent to all the governors in North America and the West Indies except East Florida.

As it is a Subject in which every Colony is deeply interested, they have no Reason to doubt but your Assembly is duly impressed with its Importance, & that such constitutional Measures will be taken by them as are proper. It seems to be necessary that all possible Care should be taken that the Representations of the several Assemblies, upon so delicate a Point, should harmonize with each other: The House therefore hope that this Letter will be candidly considered in no other Light than as expressing a Disposition freely to communicate their Mind to a Sister Colony, upon a *common Concern*, in the same Manner as they would be glad to receive the Sentiments of your or any other House of Assembly on the Continent.

This House have humbly represented to the Ministry their own Sentiments; That His Maty's High Court of Parliament is the supreme legislative Power over the whole Empire; That in all free States the Constitution is fixed; & as the supreme Legislature derives its Power & Authority from the Constitution, it cannot overleap the Bounds of it without destroying its own Foundation; that the Constitution ascertains & limits both Sovereignty & Allegiance, & therefore His Maty's American Subjects, who acknowledge themselves bound by the Ties of Allegiance, have an equitable Claim to the full Enjoyment of the fundamental Rules of the British Constitution; That it is an essential, unalterable Right in Nature, ingrafted into the British Constitution as a fundamental Law, & ever held sacred & irrevocable by the Subjects within the Realm, that what a Man has honestly acquired is absolutely his own, which he may freely give, but cannot be taken from him without his Consent; That the American Subjects may therefore, exclusive of any Consideration of Charter-Rights, with a decent Firmness adapted to the Character of free Men & Subjects, assert this natural constitutional Right. It is moreover their humble Opinion, which they express, with the greatest Deference to the Wisdom of Parliament, that the Acts made there, imposing Duties on the People of this Province with the sole & express Purpose of raising a Rev-

enue, are Infringements of their natural constitutional Rights; because as they are not represented in the British Parliament, His Maty's Commons in Britain by these Acts grant their Property without their Consent.

This House further are of Opinion, that their Constituents, considering their local Circumstances, cannot by any Possibility be represented in the Parliament, & that it will forever be impracticable that they should equally be represented there & consequently not at all; being separated by an Ocean of 1000 Leagues, & that His Maty's Royal Predecessors for this Reason were graciously pleased to form a subordinate Legislature here, that their Subjects might enjoy the unalienable Right of Representation, & that considering the utter Impracticability of their being fully & equally represented in Parliament, & the great Expence that must unavoidably attend even a partial Representation there; this House think that a Taxation of their Constituents even without their Consent, grievous as it is, would be preferable to any Representation that could be admitted for them there.

Upon these Principles & also considering that, were the Right in the Parliament ever so clear, yet for obvious Reasons it would be beyond the Rules of Equity, that their Constituents should be taxed on the Manufactures of Great Britain here, in Addition to the Duties they pay for them in England, & other Advantages arising to Great Britain from the Acts of Trade; this House have prefered an humble dutiful & loyal Petition to our most gracious Sovereign, & made such Representations to His Maty's Ministers as they apprehend would tend to obtain Redress. They have also submitted it to Consideration, whether any People can be said to enjoy any Degree of Freedom, if the Crown, in Addition to its undoubted Authority of constituting a Govr, should also appoint him such a Stipend, as it shall judge proper, without the Consent of the People and at their Expence; And whether while the Judges of the Land & other civil officers in the Province hold not their Commission during good Behaviour, their having Salaries ap-

pointed by the Crown independent of the People, hath not a Tendency to subvert the Principles of Equity, & endanger the Happiness & Security of the Subject.

In addition to these Measures the House have wrote a Letter to their Agent Mr De Berdt; the Sentiment of which he is directed to lay before the Ministry, wherein they take Notice of the Hardship of the Act for preventing Mutiny & Desertion, which requires the Govr & Council to provide enumerated Articles for the King's marching Troops, & the People to pay the Expence; & also the Commission of the Gentlemen appointed Commissioners of the Customs to reside in America, which authorizes them to make as many Appointments as they think fit, & to pay the Appointees what Sums they please, for whose Mal-Conduct they are not accountable; from whence it may happen, that Officers of the Crown may be multiplied to such a Degree as to become dangerous to the Liberties of the People, by Virtue of a Commission which doth not appear to this House to derive any such Advantages to Trade as many have been led to expect.

These are the Sentiments & Proceedings of this House; & as they have too much Reason to believe that the Enemies of the Colonies have represented them to his Maty's Ministers & the Parliament, as factious, disloyal, & having a Disposition to make themselves independent of the Mother-Country, they have taken Occasion in the most humble Terms to assure His Maty & His Ministers, that, with regard to the People of this Province and, as they doubt not, of all the Colonies, the Charge is unjust.

The House is fully satisfied that your Assembly is too generous & enlarged in Sentiment to believe, that this Letter proceeds from an Ambition of taking the Lead or dictating to the other Assemblies: They freely submit their Opinion to the Judgment of others, & shall take it kind in your House to point out to them any thing farther which may be thought necessary.

This House cannot conclude without expressing their firm Confidence in the King, our common Head & Father,

that the united & dutiful Supplications of his distressed American Subjects will meet with His Royal & favorable Acceptance.

Signed by the Speaker.

A true Copy. Att^{t} Sam^{l} Adams Clerk.

[Indorsed] Circular L^{r} from the Assembly of the Massachusets Bay to the Speakers of the Several Assemblies on the Continent of America recorded July 1775

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes from London on February 13, 1768, to Governor William Pitkin giving a long account of an interview with Lord Hillsborough and their discussion of the rights and duties of Connecticut as a charter colony, showing the inclination of the English authorities to curb too great a feeling of freedom on the part of the Colony and to assert their own authority; mention is also made of the Mason case. This is a particularly interesting letter. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 253]

COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS FOR AMERICA TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Sir

We are to acquaint your Honor that His Majesty has been pleased by Letters Patent dated the 8th day of September last to constitute and appoint us Commissioners of the Customs for America.

The Naval Officers being required to give us Security for the due Execution of their Offices, and The Governors being made responsible for their Conduct until such Security is given, Your Honor will be pleased to signify the same to your Naval Officers, and to direct them to transmit to us Lists of Ships and Vessels and of Bonds taken as required by the 22^{d} Ch: 2^{d} Ch: 26th.

The Success of the Revenue depending in a great Measure upon the support which our Officers shall receive

from the several Governors We beg leave to recommend those stationed within your Government to your Honor for such Aid and Protection as the Service may require.

We are Sir, Your Honor's
most Obedient humble Servants
CHAS. PAXTON
HEN. HULTON
WM BURCH
JOHN ROBINSON

To His Honor Governor PITKIN
Custom Ho Boston 15 Febry 1768. R R
[Indorsed] Letter from the Commission Boston febry 15th 1768 Recd March 5th 1768

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

No 3.
WHITEHALL Febry 20th 1768.

Gentlemen,

I am commanded by The King to send You a Duplicate of the Address to His Majesty from the House of Commons of the 27th March 1766. transmitted to You by the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations on the 2d of August 1766. to which Address You will take Care to pay exact Obedience, otherwise You will incur the Censure of that House.

I am with great Truth & Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
humble Servant
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor & Company of Connecticut

RESOLVE OF HOUSE OF COMMONS.

House of Commons
Jovis 27 Die Martii 1766

Resolved,

That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, that He will be graciously pleased to direct, that the fullest

Instructions be given to the several Governors of Colonies in North America, to transmit particular and exact Accounts of the several Manufactures which have been set up and carried on in their respective Governments, from the Year 1734. And of the publick Encouragements which have been given thereto; And that the said Governors do, from Time to Time, annually transmit the like Accounts of Manufactures which shall hereafter be set up, and the publick Encouragements which shall be given thereto; and that His Majesty would be graciously pleased to direct that such Accounts, when received, be laid before this House.

[Indorsed] Copy of a Resolution of the H° of Commons for an humble Address to His Majesty March the 27th 1766
Rec^d May 1768
Recorded July 1775
Copy of Resolve from Secretary Hilsborough.

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

(N° 4.)

WHITEHALL February 23^d 1768.

Gentlemen,

Governor Gitkin's Letter to the Earl of Shelburne, dated the 1st of June last N° 1, having been laid before The King, I have it in Command from His Majesty to acquaint You, that the Account, which this Letter contains of the Revenue of Connecticut, is not so complete as it ought to have been.

His Majesty supposes, that the Law itself which lays the Tax upon Polls and upon Estates real and Personal, will be comprized in the Body of Laws required to be transmitted by my Letter to You of the 23^d of January. But, in order to render the Information respecting the Revenue, perfect and satisfactory, it will be necessary to have the Treasurer's Accounts of the Disposition of the Money arising by such Tax, and also the Establishment of the Civil Officers, and their Salaries respectively. And it is therefore His Majesty's Pleasure, that such Accounts and Estab-

lishment, should be transmitted as soon as conveniently may be.

I am with great Truth & Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
Humble Servant
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor & Company of Connecticut.

RESOLVE BY COLONY OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Province of the Massachusetts Bay.
In the House of Representatives 25th Febv 1768.

Whereas the Inhabitants of the Towns of Suffield, Enfield & Somers in the County of Hampshire and the Inhabitants of the Town of Woodstock in the County of Worcester did in or about the year 1749 revolt from their subjection to this Government under which they had been at first settled and until that time continued and by which they had been protected at great charge in several Wars and did apply to the Government of Connecticut to receive them as being within that Colony. And whereas the said Government did at first disclaim any share in the said Revolt but afterwards by an Act or Law artfully establish a new form of words, expressive of the Bounds of the Counties of Hartford & Windham in order to give colour to the officers of the said Counties respectively to exercise Jurisdiction over the said Revolting Inhabitants. And whereas after various attempts to persuade and to compel the said Inhabitants to return to their subjection a War began and for many years continued between his late Majesty and the French King and during the continuance of this War the Government of this Province desisted from all compulsory measures with the said Inhabitants least damage should thereby accrue to His Majesty's Service and whereas by the Restoration of peace to all his Majesty's Dominions the Reasons for such forbearance altogether cease and the Inhabitants of the said Towns still continue in their Revolt from this Government.

It is therefore Resolved and Ordered that the Inhabitants of the Towns of Suffield, Enfield, Somers and Woodstock at all times ought to have been and from henceforth to all intents and purposes shall be considered as within the limits of this Province & under the Jurisdiction of the Government here established by the Royal Charter. And all Civil and Military Officers within the Counties of Hampshire & Worcester especially and all other Officers and Persons whomsoever it may concern within the Province, are required to govern themselves accordingly.

Provided always That notwithstanding the Inhabitants of the several Towns aforesaid have been from year to year assessed by this Court for their proportion of the Province Tax, in case of their voluntary return to their subjection to this Government, no part of the said Tax shall be required of them.

And to prevent all pretence for further exemption from Taxes the Inhabitants of the said Towns are hereby notified & warned to forbear payment of any future Taxes to the Government of Connecticut, and the Selectmen of each Town are required to give in a List of Polls and Estates in such Town to the Secretary's office before the Session of this Court in May next in order to their being assessed in a just proportion to the other Inhabitants of the Province, and in case of their neglect so to do the said Towns shall be assessed in such proportion to the other Towns of the Province as to the General Court shall then appear to be reasonable. And the payment of all Assessments made after the present Session of this Court shall be enforced in like manner as by Law the payment of Assessments upon any other Inhabitants of this Province are or may be enforced.

And the Sheriff of the County of Hampshire is required as soon as may be to deliver to one or more of the Selectmen of each of the Towns of Suffield, Enfield and Somers, and the Sheriff of the County of Worcester is required in like manner to deliver to one or more of the Selectmen of the Town of Woodstock a Copy or Copies of this Resolve or Order, the said Selectmen are required to give notice

thereof to their respective Inhabitants.

Sent up for Concurrence
T. CUSHING Spkr

In Council 25th Feby 1768. Read & Concurred
A. OLIVER Secy

Consented to FRA. BERNARD
Copy examd A. OLIVER Secy

[Indorsed] Copy act of Massachusetts Febry 1768

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Circular. (N° 5.)
WHITEHALL March the 5th 1768.

Gentlemen,

Pursuant to an Order of His Majesty in Council, on the 26th of February, I herewith transmit to you a Copy of a Report made to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, by His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General, upon an Act passed in the Colony of New Jersey in June 1766. Entitled, "An Act to extend certain Acts of Parliament of Great Britain, passed in the 12th Year of Her late Majesty Queen Anne, and the 4th of His late Majesty King George the First, for preserving all such Ships, and Goods thereof, which shall happen to be forced on Shore, or stranded."

You will observe from this Report, that it is the Opinion of His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General, that the Act of the 12th of Queen Anne, Statute 2d Cap. 18. is in Force in His Majesty's Colonies &. Plantations in America. And that so much of the Act of the 4th of George the First Cap. 12. as declares the 12th of Queen Anne to be perpetual, extends to America. It is therefore His Majesty's Pleasure that You do govern Yourselves accordingly.

I am, with great Truth & Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
humble servant
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor & Company of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] Circular N° 5 Letter from Secretary Hilsborough Recd May 1768

RICHARD PHELPS TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Gentlemen,

I inclose to You, by Order of the Earl of Hillsborough, a Copy of the Speech His Majesty was this Day graciously pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament

I am with great Truth & Regard,

Gentlemen, Your most obedient

humble Servant.

RICH^{D} PHELPS

WHITEHALL March the 10th 1768.

Governor and Company of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] This Letter Came with the Act of Parlement May 1768

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

HARTFORD 11th March 1768.

S^{r}

The Receipt of your Letters of Novem^{br} 13th & Decem^{br} 26th herewith I acknowledge: can assure you it gives me great Pleasure often to hear from you, and be inform'd of the proceedure of publick Affairs in a Country remote from us indeed in Scituation, tho not so in Interests and Connexions. The Respect you show, in confiding in me, that what you communicate will not be ill improv'd I acknowledge; and Trust you will not be disappointed.

Time, in her unceasing Course, it seems, has turn'd up some new Objects to View, a Coalition of some parties, and new Agents to be introduc'd to places of publick Trust & Authority The British Constitution is truely a very curious Nice Machine, the more curious the Instrument, the greater Skill requisite, for its Regular Motion. No wonder Shifting Hands should Occasion some jarring Discordant Sound. It cant but raise our Expectations, when Men of Wisdom and Fidelity, Step forth for Action on the publick Stage of Life. These Qualifications I hope we shall find in those propos'd, to fill some of the most important places in the Administration. With you I hope things will issue for America. Upon the Intelegence of propos'd Alterations in

the Ministry, and a new parliament to be chosen, and convein'd, you doubtles conclude we are very attentive to authentick Accounts, that we receive from Great Britain. So frequent as Oppertunity presents, and Affairs worthy of Notice occur, you will please to Favour me with your obliging Letters; Among other Things would ask that you would Transmit an Account Relative to Writs of Assistants issued under the Seal of his Majestys Court of Exchequer; in what Manner application is made in order to obtain them; and whither general Warrants are issued &c. &c. With Regard to the Cause, with which you are charg'd, have nothing new to communicate; would yet recommend your Attention heretofore shewn; wishing you success in this your Undertaking, and in sutable Time, a safe Return. With Esteem & Regard

I am Sr your most Obedⁿᵗ
most Humbˡᵉ Servᵗ
Wᴹ PITKIN

To Wᴹ Samᴸᴸ Johnson Esqr &c London.

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes from London on March 12, 1768, a general letter to Governor William Pitkin, describing parliamentary doings, particularly such as relate to the affairs of the colonies, and touching upon the Mason case. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 264.]

RICHARD PHELPS TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Circular, to all the Governors in Nº America & the West Indies.

Whitehall 6th April 1768.

Sir,

I have the Earl of Hillsborough's Directions to transmit to You such of the Acts pass'd in the last session of Parliament as relate to the Colonies, and am

Sir, &ca
R PHELPS

A List of the several Acts of Parliament
transmitted with the foregoing Letter.

An Act to continue several Acts made in the last Session of Parliament, for allowing the importation of wheat, wheat Flower, Barley, Barley Meal, Pulse, Oates, Oat Meal, Rye & Ryemeal, Duty free; and also so much of an Act made in the same Session, as relates to the free Importation of Rice from His Majesty's Colonies in North America; and to allow the Importation of Wheat and Wheat Flower from Africa, for a limited time, free of Duty.

An Act for the free Importation of Indian Corn, or Maize, from any of His Majestys Colonies in America, for a time therein limited.

An Act for further continuing an Act of the Sixth Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled, An Act to amend and render more effectual, in His Majesty's Dominions in America, an Act pass'd in this present Session of Parliament, intituled an Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, and for the Better Payment of the Army and their Quarters.

An Act for the more easy and effectual Recovery of the Penalties and Forfeitures inflicted by the Acts of Parliament relating to the Trade or Revenues of the British Colonies and Plantations in America.

An Act for the further continuing several Acts of Parliament made for the Encouragement of the Whale Fishery carried on by His Majesty's Subjects.

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Circular. (N° 6.) Duplicate.

WHITEHALL, April the 21st 1768.

Gentlemen,

I have His Majesty's Commands to transmit to you the inclosed Copy of a Letter from the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Colony of Masachuset's Bay, addresed by Order of that House to the Speaker of the Assembly of each Colony upon the Continent of North America.

As His Majesty considers this Measure to be of a most dangerous and factious Tendency, calculated to inflame the Minds of His good Subjects in the Colonies, to promote an unwarrantable Combination, and to excite and encourage an open Opposition to and Denial of the Authority of Parliament, and to subvert the true Principles of the Constitution; It is His Majesty's Pleasure that You should immediately, upon the Receipt hereof, exert Your utmost Influences to defeat this flagitious Attempt to disturb the public Peace, by prevailing upon the Assembly of Your Province to take no Notice of it, which will be treating it with the Contempt it deserves.

The repeated Proofs, which have been given by the Assembly of Connecticut, of their Reverence & Respect for the Laws, and of their faithful Attachment to the Constitution, leave little Room in His Maty's Breast to doubt of their showing a proper Resentment of this unjustifiable Attempt to revive those Destructions which have operated so fatally to the Prejudice of this Kingdom & the Colonies; and accordingly His Majesty has the fullest Confidence in their Affections, & expects they will give Him the strongest Proofs of them, upon this, and every other Occasion.

I am, with great Truth & Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
humble Servant
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor & Company of Connecticut.

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson wrote from London on April 29, 1768, a long letter to Governor William Pitkin, giving an account of political conditions and social unrest in England; also mentioning a further postponement of the Mohegan case. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 270.]

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Circular. (N° 7)

WHITEHALL April the 30th 1768.

Gentlemen,

I herewith transmit to You Copies of several Papers received from the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, relative to the Murder of William Odgers, One of the Officers of His Majesty's Customs, charged therein upon Melchisedeck Kinsman, who sailed about three Weeks since from Falmouth, in One of the New York Packets: And I am to signify to You His Majesty's Pleasure, that You take all legal Methods for the apprehending of the said Kinsman, if found within Your Government, to the End that he may be brought to Justice.

I am, with great Truth & Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
humble Servant.
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor & Company of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] N° 7 from Secretary Hillsborough 30th April 1768 Recd August 22

EDWARD STANLEY TO THOMAS BRADSHAW.

(Copy)

Sir,

William Odgers one of the Officers of the Customs at the Port of Penzance in the County of Cornwall having been lately barbarously murdered by Melchisedeck Kinsman and others, in endeavouring to seize & secure a large Quantity of uncustomed Goods; & the Collector of Penryn having informed the Commissioners that the said Kinsman sailed from Falmouth about three Weeks since in one of the New York Packets, & hath carried off with him about Eight Hundred Pounds in Cash, I am directed to acquaint You therewith & to beg you will move the Lords Commissioners of His Maty's Treasury, that Orders may be sent to

the several Governors on the Continent of America to take such Measures as my be most effectual for the apprehending of the said Melchisedech Kinsman, for which purpose have annexed a Description of his Person, & in Case he should in Consequence thereof be apprehended that he may be sent to England by the first safe and proper Opportunity that may offer, in order to his being tried for the said Offence.

I am &c
Ed STANLEY

Customhouse London 14th April 1768.

Melchisedeck Kinsman is a well set man about five feet, eight Inches high, and about thirty Years of Age, florid Complexion, his Hair light brown, but wears a Wig.

Mr. Bradshaw Esq

[Indorsed] Copy of a Letter from Mr Stanley to Mr Bradshaw relative to the Murder of Mr Odgers.

EDWARD STANLEY TO THOMAS BRADSHAW.

Custom House London 21st April 1768

Sir,

I received your Note of the 19th Instant desiring to have Copies of the Informations against Melchesideck Kinsman, to transmit to the Governors on the Continent of America, I herewith send you the same, together with a Copy of the Surgeon's Affidavit who attended Wm Odgers till the time of his Death, which the Solicitor thinks may also be proper to be sent to the Governors on the Continent of America.

I am &c
EDWARD STANLEY

Thomas Bradshaw Esq

[Indorsed] Copy of a Letter from Mr Stanley to Mr Bradshaw dated 21st April 1768

DEPOSITION OF ALEXANDER HAMPTON.

Cornwall to Wit

The voluntary Deposition of Alexander Hampton of the Parish of Redruth in the said County Tinner taken on Oath before us Thomas Glynn and Hugh Rogers Esq^{rs} two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County 15th Day of March 1768.

Who saith that on Monday 7th of March Instant he was hired by one James Nicholls of Redruth aforesaid Tinner to assist in bringing some Smuggled Goods from the Parish of Landewednack in the said County to Redruth aforesaid. That he arrived at the Church Town of the Parish of Landewednack aforesaid about three o'Clock in the Afternoon and put up his Horse at a Public House there, soon after which the said James Nichols, and also Melchesedeck Kinsman, Richard Trenear, David Trenear, and Richard Peters, all of the Parish of Gwennop in the said County came to the same Place with Intent (as this Deponent apprehended) to carry off some Smuggled Goods which had been landed for them in the said Parish of Landewednack. That within an Hour after their Arrival a Report was spread that the Goods were in Danger of being seized by some Custom House Officers, on which one of them said, "Damn these Fellows, we shall lose our Goods, come let us go immediately and endeavour to save them, or Words to that Effect." That immediately the said Melchesedeck Kinsman, Richard Trenear, David Trenear and Richard Peters, set off from the said House towards a Field about the Distance of an Eighth Part of a Mile, and this Deponent followed them. That on their entering the said Field, this Deponent observed one Man standing still and another Man running off. That the said Melchesedeck Kinsman, Richard Trenear, David Trenear & Richard Peters immediately took up a Stone each in their hands & approaching within ten or twelve yards of the Man who stood Still, forthwith flung the Stones at him; And thereupon the said Melchesedeck Kinsman came upon him and closed with him and threw him to the Ground, and then with a Whip,

the Head of which was cased with Copper, struck him several violent Blows on the Head, Leggs and several Parts of his Body, during which some of the Company having represented to the said Melchesedeck Kinsman that he had beat the Man Enough, and desiring him to desist, said Kinsman said "By God I'll kill him," or to that Effect, and accordingly continued beating him some time longer. And this Deponent saith that he saw in the said Field, several Anchor Casks which he presumes were full of Smuggled Liquors, but that after having done said Mischief the said Melchesedeck Kinsman and the others thought it imprudent to stay in order to bring of the said Casks, but got their Horses and rid away as fast as they could. And further saith that he has been informed and believes that the Name of the Person so assaulted and beaten as aforesaid was William Odgers. That he was a Custom House Officer belonging to the Port of Penzance in the said County, & that he is since dead of the Wounds received by him as aforesaid.

ALEXR HAMPTON

Sworn before Us,
THOMAS GLYNN
HUGH ROGERS.

[Indorsed] Copy of the Deposition of Alexr Hampton, relative to the Murder of William Odgers, late a Customhouse officer in the Port of Penzance.

THOMAS BRADSHAW TO RICHARD PHELPS.

Copy

Sir,

I am directed by My Lords Commissioners of His Maty's Treasury to send You the inclosed Copy of a Letter from Mr Stanley Secry to the Commrs of the Customs, relative to One Melchisedeck Kinsman, who lately murdered Wm Odgers One of their Officers at Penzance; and who sailed about 3 Weeks since from Falmouth in one of the New York Packets; And do desire You will move the Earl

of Hillsborough to give such Orders to the several Governors on the Continent of North America for apprehending the s[d] Kinsman as His Lordship shall think proper.

I am &c

THO[s] BRADSHAW.

Treasury Chambers 25[th] April 1768.

RICHARD PHELPS Esq[r]

[Indorsed] Copy of a Letter from M[r] Bradshaw to M[r] Phelps Treary Chambers 25[th] April 1768.

RICHARD PHELPS TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

WHITEHALL May 14[th] 1768.

Gentlemen,

I inclose to You, by the Earl of Hillsborough's Directions, a Copy of the Speech of the Lords Commissioners to the New Parliament, which met on Tuesday last.

I am very sorry to inform You, that His Majesty's Second Sister the Princess Louisa, died Yesterday, to the great Affliction of all His Majesty's Subjects: I most sincerely condole with You upon this melancholly Occasion, and am, with great Truth and Respect,

Gentlemen, Your most obedient

humble Servant

R. PHELPS.

Governor & Company of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] Letter from Secretary Hillsborough 14[th] of May 1768

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Circular. (N° 8.)

WHITEHALL May the 14[th] 1768.

Gentlemen,

The Commissioners of His Maty's Customs in America having represented that their Officers meet with great Obstructions, & are deterred from exerting themselves in the Execution of their Duty; I have it in Command from His Majesty to signify to You His Pleasure, that You do

give them all the Assistance and Support in Your Power, in the Discharge of their respective Offices, & in carrying the Laws of Trade & Revenue into due Execution.

I am, with great Truth & Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
humble Servant
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor & Company of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] N° 8 from Secretary Hillsborough 14th May 1768
Recd 22d August
recorded July 1775

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

[Governor William Pitkin wrote on June 6, 1768, a long letter to William Samuel Johnson in which he argued in opposition to the recent Act of Parliament granting certain duties for raising a revenue in the American colonies. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 276.]

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

[Governor William Pitkin wrote on June 10, 1768, to Richard Jackson arguing in opposition to the recent Act of Parliament granting certain duties for raising a revenue in the American colonies. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 285.]

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Hartford 10th June 1768

Sr

I received your favors of 13th Feby & 12 March which I communicated to the Assembly. I return you my thanks for your particular Intilligence, And that you thought it your Duty to Complement Lord Hillsborough upon his Appointment to his Office as Secretary of State, and for your Recommendation of this Colony to his favor. I am very glad he Indulged you with free Conversation upon

those very Interesting Subjects which so sensiably affect the liberties and property of this Colony; I really hope those prejudices which are without foundation may be removed by Solid Arguments; and that Judicious Ideas may be Adopted in their Stead, it is painfull to hear the Colonies compared to Ireland who are subjected by Conquest and by their Conduct forfeited those Immunities which we are justly Intitled to; I must be of opinion that principals and Arguments Relative to the Charter and its Legal Construction must be Conclusive in the mind of every one Impartial and Judicious, but the principals adopted by Parliament in the Article of Taxation Contradict the Essential rights contained therein, which we have so long gloried in the free Enjoyment off, Such Explaining away Liberty and property of a Free and Loyal people, contrary to plain words, and Intentions, draws a prodigious Gloom over their minds, and hardly leaves room to rejoice in Freedom, even in Immagination: your thorough Acquaintance with the genious of the people here gives you good Assurance in Affirming their thorough Attachment to the royal Family, as well as to their Mother Country, by Inclination and Interest, that nothing but Oppressive measures will ever break the Coalition. The letter I Send by the particular direction of the Assembly is so full upon this Subject, that it is needless for me to Say any thing further. The difficulty in Obtaining Medeterranian Passes seems Mortifying, that for want of a Royal Commission we must be denyed the favor of Loyal Subjects, I think this disstinction is not made in raising a revenues &c You will see by the Letter from the Assembly, the deep Concern and great Anxiety the good people of this Colony are thrown into; I have also herewith Transmitted a Coppy of an Address to his Majesty the Original of which is Sent to Lord Hillsborough to be presented to the King. I have also Inclosed a Coppy of a Resolve of Assembly which will Serve as an Answer to Queries in the Close of your letter.

As to the Manufactures that Seem'd to be the Object of Attention near the Close of the last parliament, as also

the Fishery they look so threatening that jealousies force into our minds and I wish they had no Existance but in Idea. I have nothing new to Add upon the Subject of the Vexatious Indian Cause but to wish an End to that unreasonable dispute; I have no doubt but you will Answer the Expectation of the Assembly not only in the Mohegan Case, but in Attending to other more Interesting Objects that Concern this Colony which I Earnestly Intreat you to Regard with unremitted Vigilence and Assiduity.

I am Sr with great Truth and regard
your most Obedient Humble Sert
WM PITKIN

To WM SAMLL JOHNSON Esqr &c

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

No 1.

HARTFORD 10th June 1768.

My Lord

I have receiv'd your Lordships Letter of Janry 23d last No 1. Signifying his Majestys Pleasure to make the present Arrangement, and appoint you to be one of his principal Secretaries of State, and to commit to your Care the Dispatch of all such Business relative to his Majestys Colonies in America, as has been usually dispatch'd by the Secretary for the Southern Department. The Governor & Company of Connecticut do most dutifully acknowledge his Majestys gracious Intention in making the present Arrangement and appointment of a Person of your Lordships distinguish'd Character and known Abilities to that important Office, that all possible facility & Dispatch may be given to the Business of his Colonies. We do with great Truth and Sincerity congratulate you on this happy Occasion, and render our hearty Thanks for your kind Assurance to lay our Dispatches before the King, which shall for the future be address'd to you to forward, and assist our Measures for the publick Service. We take the Liberty to observe that the Royal Recommendations are never willingly neglected

here, that full Communications have been given of all Occurrances and Proceedings of Government that have been from Time to Time required from us and that we shall yield particular Attention to his Majestys Commands and to every part of our Duty, and to recommend the People of this Colony to your Lordships favourable Notice and Regard; they are truly loyal & Virtuous, firmly attach'd to his Majestys illustrious Family & Government and maintain an affectionate Regard for their Mother Country.

I am with great Truth & Regard
My Lord your Lordships
most Obed^{nt}
and most Hum^{ble} Serv^{nt}
WM PITKIN

The Right Honor^{ble} The Earl of HILSBOROUGH one of his Majestys principal Secretaris of State

[Indorsed] Connecticut Hartford 10th June 1768 Gov^{r} Pitkin (N°. 1) R 1st October

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

N° 3.
HARTFORD 10th June 1768.

My Lord

I have receivd your Lordships Letter dated February 20th last N° 3 signifying to the Governor and Company of Connecticut the Kings Command to send them a duplicate of the Address to his Majesty, from the House of Commons of 27th March 1766 transmitted to this Colony by the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations on the 2^{d} of August 1766.

Care has been taken and then was to pay exact Obedience to his Majestys Commands on that Address, in a Letter to their Lordships dated 5th Decem^{br} 1766, which gave particular and exact Accounts of the several Manufactures which have been sett up, and carried on in this Colony from the Year 1734. And that no publick Encouragements have been given to any; a Copy of which is here-

with Transmitted; Since which a Mill is erected within this Colony, for making Paper and some Quantity of the Coarser Sort is wrought in it. No publick Encouragement hath been given by this Colony to this or any other Manufactures.

I am with great Truth & Esteem
my Lord, Your Lordships most Obd^{nt}
and most Humb^{le} Serv^{nt}
WM PITKIN

To the Right Honor^{ble} The Earl of Hilsborough One of his Majestys principle Secretaries of State White Hall, London.

[Indorsed] Connecticut Hartford 10th June 1768. Gov^{r} Pitkin (N°. 3) R 1st October

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

Hartford 10th June 1768.

My Lord

It is impracticable directly to Answer your Lordships Letters N° 2 and N° 4 so particularly as will be expected: necessary Orders are given to prepare every thing Needfull for a perfect Compliance with your Lordships Requisition which I shall transmit as soon as may be.

I am with great Truth & Regard
my Lord, Your Lordships most Obed^{nt}
and most Hum^{le} Serv^{nt}
WM PITKIN

To the Right Honor^{ble} The Earl of Hillsborough One of his Majestys principle Secretaries of State.

[Indorsed] Connecticut Hartford 10th June 1768. Gov^{r} Pitkin R 1st October.

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

N° 5.
Hartford 10th June 1768.

My Lord,

I have receiv'd your Lordships Letter of March the 5 last (Circular) N° 5. with a Copy of a Report made to the Lords Commissioners of Trade & Plantations by his Maj-

estys Attorney and Solicitor Gener[l] upon an Act passed in the Colony of New Jersey in June 1766. and observe their Opinion, that the Act of the 12th of Queen Anne Statute 2d Chptr 18th is in Force in his Majestys Colonies & Plantations in America. And that so much of the Act of the 4th of George of first Chptr 12th as declares the 12th Queen Anne to be perpetual, extends to America. Signifying his Majestys Pleasure that we do govern ourselves accordingly.

The Governor and Company of this Colony do most dutifully acknowledge his Majestys tender Care and Concern for the Welfare of his Subjects in the remote parts of his Dominions.

I am with great Truth and Regard my Lord,
Your Lordships most Obedⁿᵗ
and most Humbˡᵉ Servᵛᵗ
Wᴹ PITKIN

To the Right Honorᵇˡᵉ The Earl of Hilsborough one of his Majestys principle Secretaries of State White Hall London

[Indorsed] Connecticut. Hartford 10th June 1768 Govr Pitkin (No 5) R 1st October

WILLIAM PITKIN TO THE EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

Hartford June 10th 1768.

My Lord,

His Majesty's most dutifull and loyal Subjects, the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut in New England in America beg Leave to Congratulate your Lordship, and express our Satisfaction on the Royal Appointment designating a Person of your Lordships distinguished Excellency and Dignity to the important Office of Secretary of State to the Colonies in America, and felicitate ourselves that we have a Person appointed of your Lordship's real Worth, known Ability, and approved Integrity, as well as great Humanity and benevolent Disposition; to whom we may apply in all our Exigencies, and may address all our petitions by You to the Throne, that by your kind Aid they may reach the Royal Ear, and also by your

benign Influence Help from the Throne may be obtained. We beg Leave to ask your Lordships favourable Attention to our Complaints under the heavy Burthens laid upon us by an Act of the British Parliament Entituled "an Act for granting Certain Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations in America, for allowing a Drawback of the Duties of the Customs upon the Exportation from this Kingdom, of *Coffee* and *Cocoa Nuts*, of the Produce of the said Colonies or Plantations, for discontinuing the Drawbacks payable on *China Ware* exported to America, and for more effectually preventing the Clandestine Running of Goods in the said Colonies and Plantations;" We entreat your favourable Interposition, that we may be releived from them. We would observe to your Lordship the great Difficulties and Distresses we are reduced to, not only from our great Poverty and Inability to pay those Duties and Impositions which are occasioned by the great Burthens, Charges and Expencies that we have been Subjected to in the Course of the last War, into which with great Chearfullness we entered by his Majestys Command, and to shew our Loyalty and Duty to our most gracious Sovereign, we with Alacrity discovered our zeal for his Majesty's Service, by going greatly beyond our Abilities, which hath been, as we apprehend, from Time to Time recognized by Parliament, in their Grants to the King, to enable him to make some Compensation to us, as well as the other Colonies in America, for our *Extra* Services: Nothwithstanding which, we are left poor and low, and under a heavy Debt, from which it will be a long Time before we can hope to extricate ourselves. These Considerations render the Burthens heavy and indeed almost insupportable. But, my Lord, there are other Considerations which make them peculiarly greivious and afflicting, that the Parliament of Great Britain, whom we revere as the great Council of the Nation, should impose these Duties upon the American Colonies for the sole purpose of raising a Revenue in America; It is with the deepest Concern that we esteem ourselves thereby at once stript not only of our most valuable Constitutional Rights

as Englishmen and British Subjects, but also dishonoured in not being allowed to make any free Gift of what we esteem our own, to our Beloved and Benevolent Sovereign, upon any Royal Requisition that shall in coming Time be made.

Our Constitutional Rights we esteem as great as any of our Fellow Subjects. We look upon our Selves free and Natural-born Subjects to our most gracious King, and have to say, his Majesty's Royal Predecessors have acknowledged us to be such; more especially King Charles the Second, in the Royal Charter granted to said Governor and Company, expresly declares and grants "to them and their Successors, that all and every the Subjects of us, our Heirs or Successors, which shall go to inhabit in said Colony, and every of their Children which shall happen to be born there, or on the Sea in going thither, or Returning from thence, shall have and enjoy all Liberties and Immunities of free and Natural-born Subjects, within any of the Dominions of Us, our Heirs or Successors, to all Intents, Consecructions and purposes whatsoever, as if they and every one of them were born within the Realm of England", and these Royal Concessions have been from Time to Time recognized by the British Parliament themselves: And as we are thus declared English Subjects and Partners in the general Priviledges and Liberties of Englishmen, the Consequence we trust will appear clear and convincing to Your Lordship, that we ought not to be taxed *without* our own Consent any more than our Fellow subjects living within the Realm of Great Britain, which certainly will be the Case if we are Taxed by Parliament, when we have no Representation there, nor is it possible, considering our distant Situation, that we can have any. Moreover — We cannot, but with Grief of Heart, reflect that, that August Body, the British Parliament, the Grand Council of the British Nation, whose Glory, whose Honour and whose Happiness we rejoice in as our own, should dispose of our Property without our Consent, when no Part of the Kings Dominions, we have the Vanity to think, would with more Chearfullness and

Alacrity Contribute all the Aid we possibly could towards Securing, protecting and Defending our rightfull Sovereign, and our happy Nation, against all Attempts and Annoyances, from foreign and domestick Enemies.

We beg Leave further to observe that the Product of our Labour and our Trade naturally and necessarily tends to, and centers in Great Britain, and if our Wealth should be Ten times greater than it is, the Bulk of it would be expended in purchasing her Manufactures. We Pride ourselves in being connected with that People, whose distin guished Priviledges render them, in our Esteem, the happiest of the human Race. Our Connections with them are so strong and cemented both by Affection and Interest, that we cannot entertain the most distant Wish of being Seperate from the Protection of our Mother State. We say, my Lord, that we, whose Liberties and Priviledges we esteem the same with our Fellow subjects in Great Britain, should be denied the Honour, of making a free Gift of what we think we have a Right to call our own, or voluntarily complying with any Requisition of our rightful Lord and Sovereign, and be divested of our property in a Way that manifests a distrust of our Loyalty to our King, and of our Love to our Mother Country, is really depriving us of one of the most peculiar Pleasures of Subjects every Way inclined and disposed to give the Strongest Proofs of Loyalty and Affection to their Sovereign. Upon the whole we beg Leave to repeat our earnest Entreaty to your Lordship, to lay before his Majesty, for his Royal Consideration our Petition herewith transmitted and your Attention to our Case, and favourable Interposition for our Releif and Deliverance from these our Sorrows and Burthens which will always command the greatest Gratitude from

Your Lordships most Obedient
and most humble Servants
WM PITKIN

To the Right Honble the Earl of Hillsborough one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

[Indorsed] Connecticut Hartford 10th June 1768 Govr Pitkin
R 1st October

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

HARTFORD 10th June 1768.

Sr

Yours of the 12th of March I Receiv'd, what you observe as to the full and particular Advice I repeatedly receive from Mr Johnson Relative to the Affairs of the Colony is the real Reason, why I have not wrote to you oftener, as all Matters of Importance were by you communicated to him.

I heartily wish an End to the Mohegan Cause, and that Righteousness therein may take place, which the Colony have always made the Basis of their Conduct, in treating with those Indians. I Return you my Thanks, for your Care in Endeavouring to prevent Grants from the Crown, as as well every other Method, for the Advantage of the Colony; particularly for your kind proposal for Supplying Money on the Credit of the Colony; but I hope you will have no Trouble of that kind, by what the Assembly have provided, which I hope will Speedily be remitted. As to the Mediterranean Passes, it is not a Matter of such Importance as to engage your Attention, so as to give yourself, or the Admiralty Office future Trouble.

I herewith Transmit you a Coppy of an Address sent to Lord Hillsborough to be presented to his Majesty, as also a Letter drawn by the Direction of the Assembly, by which you will see the Anxious Concern of the People of this Colony, which Letter is so particular, that I have no Need to add upon that Subject, only Earnestly Intreat your Assistance and Influence in Effecting the things in s'd Address pray'd for.

I heartily condole the Loss of your near Relatives, and wish that eventually it may answer the most Salutory purposes.

I have only to Recommend to your Attention every Matter wherein the Colony is Concern'd, in full Confidence thereof, I subscribe myself with great Regard

Sr Your most Obedt Humble Servt

WM PITKIN

To RICHARD JACKSON Esqr &c London

[Indorsed] Letter to Richd Jackson Esqr June 10th 1768

COLONY OF CONNECTICUT TO THE KING.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We your Majesty's most faithfull and loyal Subjects, "The Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut in New England in America", beg Leave to approach the Throne, in behalf of your distressed Subjects the People of the Colony, and lay at your Majesty's Feet their humble Petition — which Sheweth —

That our Ancestors, the first Setlers of this Colony migrated from their Mother Country to this Land, purchased and obtained the greatest Part thereof, for great and valuable Considerations, and some other part thereof they gained by Conquest, without much Difficulty, and at the only Endeavours, Expence and Charges of them and their Associates, subdued and improved the same, and made a considerable enlargement and addition to your Majesty's Dominions and Interest.

That, in Consideration thereof, and in regard of their local circumstances, and to the end the affairs and Business, which from time to time should happen and arise concerning the same, might be duly ordered and managed, they obtained a Charter from King Charles the second, wherein his said Majesty was graciously pleased to grant to them, their Heirs and Assigns forever all the Lands therein described, to hold of Him, and his Royal Successors in free and common Soccage. Therein also they and their Successors, were created and made a Body politick and corporate in fact and Name, with the Powers, Authorities, and Priviledges therein named and mentioned; among other things it is especially granted, that they should have and enjoy all the Liberties and Immunities of free and natural Subjects born within the Realm of England.

That, the Inhabitants of this Colony have enjoyed the priviledges, and faithfully exercised the Authorities to them granted more than a Century past, and thereby happily blessed with the constitutional Rights of Englishmen; the

principal of which is that of being Taxed only by Representatives of their own free Election, which our Fellow Subjects within the Realm have ever held a most Sacred Right. That in Consequence thereof the Representatives of your people in the General Assembly have on all Occasions granted and levied proportionable and reasonable Assessments, Rates and Taxes and disposed of the same for your Majesty's Service in the necessary Support and Defence of your Government here; And your Majesty, and your Predecessors have been graciously pleased, from time to time, to order the Royal Requisitions to be laid before them, who have never failed chearfully to yeild and contribute their Aid to the full Extent of, and sometimes beyond their Ability; for the Security of all your Majesty's Rights and Territories in America.

That, it will ever be grevious to your Majesty's faithfull Subjects here, to be called upon for raising your Majesty's Revenue, and necessary Aids, in a Way that shall appear to them to imply a Distrust of their willing and ready Compliance.

That, it is with the deepest Concern and Sollicitude, that your humble Petitioners represent to your Majesty, That your high Court of Parliament, the Rectitude of whose Intentions is never to be questioned, has thought proper to pass an Act imposing Duties on your Majesty's Subjects in America, with the sole and express Purpose of raising a Revenue; our distance renders it impracticable for us to be represented in your Majesty's British Parliament. And if your Majesty's faithfull Subjects here shall be denied the Honour and Priviledge they have so long enjoyed voluntarily to contribute their Aid to your Majesty; if this Act of Parliament shall remain in force, and your Majesty's Commons in Great Britain shall continue to exercise the Power of Granting the Property of their Fellowsubjects in this Colony, your Majesty's humble Suppliants must then lament their Unhappiness in having left to them only the Name of *free* Subjects.

Under the deepest Impressions of your Majesty's wise and paternal Concern and Care for the Liberties and Happiness of even the remotest of your faithfull Subjects, and in firm Reliance on the Royal Declarations,

Your humble Petitioners most dutifully and earnestly beseech your Majesty, to take our present distressed Circumstances under your Royal Consideration, and grant us Relief, in such manner, as in your Majestys great Wisdom, Clemency and Goodness shall seem meet.

In the Name and behalf of the
Governor and Company of the
Colony of Connecticut
WM PITKIN GOVERNR

[Indorsed] In Govr Pitkin's of 10th June 1768.

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

(No 9.) Circular
WHITEHALL July 4th 1768.

Gentlemen,

As His Majesty has thought fit to direct that I should give constant Attendance in my Place at the Board of Trade, I shall not fail to lay before that Board such Matters, arising out of your Correspondence with me, as shall appear to be necessary for their Consideration; You need not therefore, for the future, be at the Trouble of transmitting to their Lordships Duplicates of your Dispatches to my Office, but confine Yourselves to one Channel of Correspondence, conformable to the Spirit and Intention of His Majesty's Order in Council of the 8th of August, 1766.

I am, with great Truth and Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor & Company of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] No 9 from Secretary Hillsborough July 4th 1768

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

(N° 10) Circular

WHITEHALL July 11th 1768.

Gentlemen,

As I observe that it frequently happens, that Intelligence of public Transactions in the Colonies is received by private Persons in this City, long before any official Communication of it comes to me for His Majesty's Information, I conceive this Inconvenience must arise, in great Measure, from His Majesty's Governors not availing themselves of such casual Opportunities of writing by private Ships as frequently happen, but confining themselves to the Channel of the Packets only: For this Reason I desire that You will for the future send your Dispatches by the first Opportunity that offers, & Duplicates of them by the next Packet; or in Case the Packet shall be the first Opportunity that offers, then you will send Your Duplicates by the next private Conveyance.

I am, with great Truth and Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
humble Servant
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor & Company of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] Letter from Secretary Hillsborough July 11th 1768 N° 10

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

(N° 11.) Circular

WHITEHALL July 11th 1768.

Gentlemen,

The Commissioners of His Maty's Customs in North America having made further complaints of Obstructions they and their Officers meet with in the execution of their Duty, I am commanded by His Majesty to repeat to You that it is His Royal Pleasure that You do use your most strenuous efforts & exert yourself in the most effectual manner for the support of the Commissioners of the

Customs & to enable them to discharge the Duty of their respective Offices & carry the Laws of Trade & Revenue into due Execution.

I am with great Truth & Regard,
Gentlemen, Your most obedient
humble Servant
HILLSBOROUGH.

Governor & Company of Connecticut.
[Indorsed] No. 11 Secretary States Letter 11 July 1768

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Sir

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that I have at length obtained from the Admiralty Office 12 Mediteranean Passes, which shall be forwarded in a Box by the first Vessel for New York, unless in the mean time one should offer for New London. The Difficulty of obtaining these Passes has been a good deal, occasioned by there never having been, before, any such Passes intrusted to a Charter Governor: but I have succeeded by urging, that the Government of Connecticut deserve to be intrusted with the isuing Passes of this kind, because they have deserved the Confidence of the Crown by their Conduct ever since the Foundation of the Colony. I should not mention this Difficulty but to account for a Delay that may possibly appear long.

I know not yet whether the office will demand their fees on the Delivery of the Passes or not 'till after they have been disposed of. The last I understand to be the usual Way, the Gov^rs of other Provinces accounting for the fees as they receive them, but to facilitate y^e Affair I have offered the Money immediately if they demand it.

The Mony in my hands on Account of the Colony diminishes apace. I have in the whole advanced to M^r Johnson for his Expences £619 10^s, & shall upon his Return to London pay him £50 more after which I shall not have near £100 in my hands, a sum far short of what will be necessary to defray the Expence of the Mohegin Suit:

which is at present at a stand for want of Money on the other side; indeed I have thought it incumbent on me to represent to his Majesty^{s} Ministers the hardship on the Owners of y^{e} Land in Question to be long persecuted as they have been, by means of Money obtained from the Bounty of the Crown, under the imposing pretents of oppresion & Indigence of the Mohegins, a pretext that will never be wanting in every part of America while listened to. For the present the isuing the Money they want is therefore delayed this keeps M^{r} Johnson, that his Assistance may be ready in case the Supporters of y^{e} Indians sh^{d} find Money of their own or at last obtain somewhat from the Crown.

I am Sir with great Regard
Y^{r} most Obed^{t}
hble Serv^{t}
R^{D} JACKSON

London 13 July 1768

[Indorsed] Letter from M^{r} Jackson 13th July 1768 Rec^{d} in Sept^{r}

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes from London on July 23 to 30, 1768, to Governor William Pitkin regarding political affairs in England particularly as they relate to the American colonies. A hearing on the Mohegan case is likely to be postponed until autumn. American affairs are almost entirely in Lord Hillsborough's hands, and there is more to fear than to hope from his administration. It is reported that Massachusetts is to be forced to repeal some of her recent acts. The form for writs of assistance appears to be for their general use rather than upon any particular information. It is believed that strong, armed forces will be sent to Boston. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 289.]

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

N° 2.

HARTFORD 4th August 1768

My Lord

I have receiv'd your Lordships Letter of Jan^ry 23^d last N° 2 Signifying his Majestys Pleasure that a Compleat Collection of the Laws of this Colony be transmitted to you to be laid before his Majesty, to prevent the great Difficulties which may occur in transacting Business Relative to this Colony from the want thereof. The most effectual Care hath been taken as early as possible to provide a Complete printed Copy, or Collection of all the Laws of this Colony down to this present Time, and the same is properly Authenticated under our publick Seal, and herewith transmitted to your Lordship.

I am with great Truth & Regard my Lord
Your Lordships most Obed^nt
and most Hum^ble Serv^nt
W^M PITKIN.

To the Right Honora^ble The Earl of HILSBOROUGH One of his Majestys principal Secretaries of State.

[Indorsed] Connecticut Hartford 4^th Aug^st 1768. Gov^r Pitkin (N° 2) R 1^st October

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

HARTFORD 25^th August 1768

S^r

Your Letter of the 29^th of April, with a P. S. of May 14^th came safe to hand. The Cause with which you was especially charg'd, not then come to an Issue; a much longer Time has illaps'd, I imagine, without a Trial, than you expected, when first you was intrusted with the Management of it: a Short Time, I cant but hope, will bring it to Issue, and Right take Place.

That it is a very expensive Country to live in, with the greatest and best Oeconomy, I can easily beleive; I have been apprehensive that the Colony's Money in Bank, in Great Britain, would be exhausted, and our Expences

remain in part unpayed. Care has been taken for a present Supply. By Mr Jacksons last Account, the Ballance in his Hands, in Favour of the Colony, was £192 6 0. In addition to which I have sent him Bills of Exchange to the amount of £525 0 0.

The State of the Nation by all Accounts, is truely maloncholly, and it cant but draw a Gloom over our Minds, to View the Picture of our Mother State, and see what a frowning Countenance she puts on; when she turns her Face to her American Subjects, who always Glory in their Duty and Loyalty to their King, and their Connection with Great Britain. The British Constitution is really one of the most finish'd plans or Models of Government; well attended to, it answers the best purposes of a Nation, has made Great Britain, under the smiles of Providence, far outshine her Neighbours. In attending to which Great Britain will no Doubt, still advance in Dignity, reap peculiar profit and Advantage, and America will greatly rejoice.

I am Sr with Esteem & Regard
Your most Obednt
& most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To Wm SAMUL JOHNSON Esqr &c London
[Indorsed] Letter to Mr Johnson 25th of August 1768

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

HARTFORD August 25th 1768.

Sr

I wrote largely to you in June last, which makes it needless for me to be so particular in representing our State, and recommending your Attention to it: since which I have receiv'd nothing from you. In your last you inform'd that there would soon be Occasion for a supply of Money to forward the Mohegan Cause. Mr Johnson in a Letter just come to Hand has wrote to the same Effect; and that a larger Sum will be necessary, than we have at present provided. I now Inclose Bills of Exchange to the amount of £525 0 0 which with the small Ballance in

your Hands, will in part supply for the present. I ask the Favour of you, not to let the Cause suffer for want of Money, as I am persuaded it will be Honourably paid, as soon as may be. By publick and private Accounts the Nation is in a tumultuous State, the Dark and gloomy Aspects of Providence over the Nation and Land, fill us with great Concern. At this critical Season we depend on your Steady Watchfulness, and Exertion of your Influence for the Welfar of this Colony, and the good of this Land.

I am with Truth & Regard
Sr your most Obednt
& most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To Richard Jackson Esqr &c London.
[Indorsed] Letter to Richd Jackson Esqr August 25th 1768

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Circular (No 12.)
Whitehall 2d September 1768.

Gentlemen,

The King having observed that the Governors of His Colonies have, upon several occasions, taken upon them to communicate to their Councils and Assemblies, either the whole or parts of Letters which they have received from His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State; I have it in command from His Majesty to signify to you, that it is His Majesty's pleasure, that you do not, upon any pretence whatever, communicate to the Assembly, any copies or extracts of such Letters as you shall receive from His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, unless you have His Majesty's particular directions for so doing.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient
humble Servant
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor and Company of Connecticut.
[Indorsed] No. 12. Lord Hillsborough 2d September 1768.
Receiv'd December 1768

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Southampton Buildings 5 Oct^{r} 1768

Sir

I received a few Minutes ago your Letter of the 10th June inclosing the Pet^{n} which I shall present & endeavour with all my Power to procure Success to. If the most earnest Wishes for the Repeal of an Act that I opposed both within & out of y^{e} House of Commons can give us Success we shall have it.

After all my Endeavours to prevent the Ministers of the Crown from giving further Aid to what I have always deemed a vexatious Suit, it has been determined once more to give it a hearing for the last time & then hear our Obj^{ns} to y^{e} Appeal & Review of it. This will prove Expensive but I hope no otherwise disagreeable. I know not whether my last Acc^{ts} are arrived since I struck that balance having advanced Money to M^{r} Johnson I have little more than £2 left of y^{e} Colony^{s} Money. I am with great Esteem Sir

Y^{r} most Obed^{t}

hble Serv^{t}

R^{D} JACKSON

Honble W^{M} Pitkin Esq Gov^{r} of Connecticut at Hartford.

[Indorsed] from M^{r} Jackson Octobr 5th 1768 Rec^{d} Jan^{ry} 1769

DUTIES COLLECTED IN CONNECTICUT.

An Account of the Duties collected & of the Fines & Forfeitures recovered in the several Ports now under the American Commission between the 10th of October 1767 & the 10th of October 1768 distinguishing the Duties on each Commodity & whether the Fines & Forfeitures were recovered by the Officers of the Navy or Customs, together with an Account of the Expences attending the Receipt of the said Duties.

Names of Ports	Duties received from 10 October 1767 to 10 October 1768.														
	Foreign Brown Sugar			Madeira & other Wines			Wines from Great Britain			Foreign Melasses					
New London	32	17	6							500	6	6			
New Haven	2	6	10½							26	3	11			

Foreign Indico		Foreign Coffee		British Coffee		British Pimento		Printers Colours			Glass		
								1	0	0	16	19	2

Paper		Tea		Rice		Tobacco			other enumerated Articles		
						147	10	3			

Kings Share of Fines forfeitures, seizures recovered by				Amount of the Gross Rect of each port		
Officers of the Navy		Officers of the Customs				
				698	13	5
				28	10	9½

Established and Incidental Charges in each Port

Established & Incidental Salarys			Waiters & prevention Officers	Tides men	Gauging	Weighing
150	13	1				
118	7	5				

Printing			Postage			Boat & Men	Office Rent			Firing			Stationary		
2	5	1½	1	4	6		2	10	0	1	10	0	10	0	

Law Charges	other Articles	Amount of ye Charges of Management			Account of the Nett Produce			Charges of Management exceeding the Produce		
		150	13	1	548	0	4			
		126	7	½				97	16	3

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

(N° 13.)

WHITEHALL October 12th 1768.

Sir,

I have received and laid before The King your Letters to me N^os^ 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, together with that of the 10th of June, and the Petition to His Majesty inclosed therein.

The King is well pleased to find that the arrangement made, in respect to the Administration of the Affairs of the Colonies, gives satisfaction to His faithful Subjects in Connecticut, and I beg you will be assured that I shall think myself very happy if, in obeying the Commands of my Royal Master, I may have it in my power to testify my regard for the Colony of Connecticut, and the full credit I give to your assurances of the Loyalty of its Inhabitants, & their affection to their Sovereign, who makes the Welfare and Happiness of all His Subjects, in every part of His Dominion, the constant objects of His Royal Care and Attention.

I am with great Regard
Sir Your Most Obedient
Humble Servant
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor PITKIN

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

LONDON 13 Oct^r^ 1768

Sir

Since my last I have received the Duplicate of your former & your Letter inclosing 6 Bills of Exchange value £525 which are not yet carried for Acceptance but when received shall be carried to the Credit of the Colony, & should any of them not be accepted I will advise you of it. You may rely upon it that I will readily advance what Money the Affairs of the Colony shall require, when the Money remitted is expended, & had not the Bills now come, I should have provided for y^e^ Expence which in-

cluding Mr Johnsons necessary Expences will probably far exceed the remittance, though doubtless the sooner ye Remittance is made ye more Convenient it will be. I hope before this reaches America you will have received the Mediterranian Passes which though I did not consider as being of ye greatest Importance to ye welfare of ye Colony, yet I wished to obtain as a Proof of ye Zeal with which I wish to further its Interest. I assure you that in case my Success shall be less in any Case it is not for want of ye warmest Zeal & most earnest Endeavours. I paid £15 for the Passes which I shall charge to Account. I am with great Regard

Sir, Yr most Obedt
& most hble Servt
RD JACKSON

29 Octr Since I wrote the Above all the Bills are Accepted.

[Indorsed] from Mr Jackson 13th of October 1768 Recd in Janry 1769

FORM FOR CERTIFICATE.

By the Honourable
William Pitkin Esq Governor
of the Majesty's English Colony of
Connecticut in New England in America
Be it known

That Ephraim Hubbel and Samuel Canfield Esqrs who have respectively taken Rebecca Herault, James Moger & Elizabeth Herault's Acknowledgment of the two Several Letters of Attorney to Peter and Peter Perchard of the City of London Merchants, hereunto annexed for several years last past have been and now are Justices of the Peace (viz The said Ephraim Hubbel in and for the County of Fairfield and the said Samuel Canfield in and for the County of Litchfield), in the Colony aforesd, both lawfully appointed and commissioned to that Office. And That entire good Faith and Credit may and ought to be rendered and given

to Doings of the said Justices of the Peace in the Premises, in all Places both in Court and Country.

In Testimony whereof, the public Seal of the Colony of Connecticut afores^{d} is hereunto affixed.

Dated at New Haven in said Colony the 19th Day of October in the 8th Year of the Reign of his Majesty George the third King of Great Britain &c Annoq: Dom. 1768.

By his Hon^{rs} Command.

[Indorsed] Governors Certificate to be Sent to England 1768

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes from London on October 20, 1768, to Governor William Pitkin giving an account of an interview with Lord Hillsborough regarding Connecticut's recent petition to the king and American affairs in general, and quoting Hillsborough as saying that when the right of Parliament to pass the acts to which the the colonies object is called into question "we cannot hear you" and much more to the same effect. More funds are needed to meet the heavy expenses. The Mohegan case will probably be tried during the coming winter. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 295.]

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

Hartford 1st Novemb^{r} 1768.

S^{r}

In my last to you of the 25th August with Duplicates of what I transmitted in June last, were inclosed the first Set of Bills of Exchange for the Colonyes Use, to the Amount of £525 o o o which I hope have been Receiv'd. I now inclose the Second Sett of Bills, of the same Tenor and Date, in Case of the Failure of the Former. The Receipt of the Mediterranean Passes with an Account, of your payin fifteen Pounds for purchasing them, I acknowledge your kind Offices for the Colonys Welfare, I may assure you, will

not pass unnoticed, and I presume not unrewarded. By Mr Johnson's last, there appear'd to be an opening Prospect, of the long delay'd Mohegan Cause, coming to a Hearing: your Vigilince and Care, I make No doubt, will be employ'd to make the best Defence, and hope you will be succesful. Anxious for our Liberties, solicitous for the Favour of our King, and his Counsellors; and Desireous of a perfect Harmony, between Great Britain and her Colonies; you will permit me to ask of you, what Reception our Application to his Majesty, in Regard to the Removal of our Grievances, met with. I have wrote to Mr Johnson and thot proper to mention; that in Case he should leave Great Britain, before the arrival, of this, or other Letters, I may send him, you would secure them and improve them, if they should be of Service, in any thing relating to the Colony. I am

Sir with great Truth & Regard
your most Obednt
and most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To Richard Jackson Esqr &c London.

[Indorsed] Letter Sent to Richd Jackson Esqr 1st Novr 1768

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Hartford 1t Novembr 1768

Sr

Your Favour of the 23d of July, with the inclosed Forms of Writs of Assistance I have receiv'd. The Inteligence you are from time to time favouring me with, you may well conclude is acceptable in this critical Day. An attentive Ear, a watchful Eye, and a calm judicious Pen, are often helpful to others, in forming a Judgment, and regulating their Conduct.

Well knowing your Disposition as to the Dispatch of Business, I doubt not, but some uneasy Sensations crowd into your Mind, at certain Seasons, when you reflect how long the Hearing of the Mohegan Cause is postponed; after

such a Length of Time for Deliberation, I hope for a happy Issue.

In one of my Letters some time past I requested to be informed, whither the Address to his Majesty, made by this Colony in the Year 1766, was ever introduc'd or presented in Form, I now ask Information, with Regard to that which was sent in June last. Whither ever presented to his Majesty, and how reciv'd. In Consequence of Orders from Great Britain, the Assembly of the Massachusetts, was Dissolved; of late some Regular Troops have arriv'd at Boston from Halifax; were not in the least molested in their Landing and marching into the Town; the Conduct of the Inhabitants has been such, that I cant but hope the Strong Resentments which have arisen in the Minds of many against them, will be abated. Much I think it would be for the real Advantage of Great Britain; highly would it contribute to the Peace of America; and greatly would it tend to the Dignity and safety, of both, to have a firm and lasting Union established upon the plan of the British Constitution; hoping for which

I remain S^r^ with Truth and Regard
your most Obed^nt^
and most Humb^l^ Servnt
W^M^ PITKIN

P. S. The Mediterrean Passes by M^r^ Tiler, came safe to Hand, yours &c.

To W^M^ SAMU^L^ JOHNSON Esqr &c London

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

My Lord

I have receivd your Lordships letter Dated Febry last N^o^ 4 Signifying that the Account given by a letter to the Earl of Shelburne Dated the 1^st^ of June last N^o^ 1 of the Revenue of Connecticut is not so Compleat as it ought to have been, And to Render the same Compleat And Satisfactory, that it is his Majestys pleasure that the Treasurers Accounts of the Disposition of the Money Arising by a tax & the Establishment of the Civil Officers & their Salaries Respectively should be Transmitted.

In Obedience thereto the Treasurers Accounts for one Year last past properly Authenticated and Also such Establishment is herewith Transmitted which Indeed will afford your Lordship but a Very Imperfect knowledge of the heavy Charge & Expence Annualy Arising on the Inhabitants of the Colony, as the Colony is Divided into Countys, Townships and Societies each of which are by Law oblidged to tax themselves for all Charges that respectively Arising within them which is done for the more easy Collecting & paying y^e^ same, very Considerable of which is paid by Labour & the produce of the Country which by reason of the Scarcity of Circulating Cash could not otherwise be paid, I beg leave further to Acquaint your Lordship that of the heavy debt on this Colony Incurred during the last Warr (altho the Taxes were early laid for the payment thereof & the utmost Efforts Used to Collect them yet by reason of our Exerting our selves therein beyond our Abilities the great loss Sustained in our Labouring Men our Lands Depreciated at least one third in their Value; there still remains to the Amount of fourty Eight thousand pounds Unpaid, Still a heavy Weight on the people on Account of which the Assembly have Omitted for two years past laying any Tax on the people to give them time to Struggle through & Discharge their former outstanding Debt.

In y^e^ lower House

it is desired that an answer to the Letter of L^d^ Hillsborough N^o^ 4 be deferd, till the Assembly in May next.

Test W^m^ Williams Cler

[Indorsed] Answer to N^o^ 4 Not sent

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

(N^o^ 14.)

Whitehall Nov^r^ the 15^th^ 1768.

Sir,

In my letter to you dated the 12^th^ of October N^o^ 13, I acquainted you that the Petition of the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut, transmitted to me in your letter of the 10^th^ of June, had been laid before the

King; And I am now to inform you that His Majesty having duly weighed and considered the purport of that petition, does disapprove thereof, as founded upon Principles, and implying Claims and pretensions, that do not correspond with the Constitution, and tend to deny and draw into question the supreme Authority of the Legislature of Great Britain to enact Laws binding upon the Colonies in all cases whatever.

The inclosed Addresses of both Houses of Parliament to His Majesty, in answer to His most gracious Speech, (which is also inclosed,) at the Opening of the Session of Parliament, passed in one House nemine contradicente, & in the other without a division; and His Majesty trusts that this happy Unanimity, & the Resolution so strongly expressed in these Addresses to preserve & support entire and inviolate the Authority of the supreme Legislature over the whole British Empire, will have the effect to defeat and disappoint the views of those wicked men, who seek to excite disunion and Disaffection between Great Britain and her Colonies, and at the same time that all His Majesty's american Subjects, who wish well to the Happiness and Prosperity of both, will give full Credit to His Majesty & to His Parliament for their Affection to the Colonies, and for their Readiness to hear and redress every real Grievance of His Majesty's american Subjects, when represented in a regular manner, and upon principles not inconsistent with the Constitution.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Queen was happily brought to bed of a Princess on tuesday last, and that both Her Majesty and the young Princess are as well as can be desired. I most heartily congratulate You upon this Increase of the Royal Family; an event that affords the greatest satisfaction to all His Majesty's Subjects.

I am, Sir,
Your Most Humble
& Obedient Servant
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor of Connecticut.

[Indorsed] Earl of Hillsborough in Answer to the Add[ ]
to The King from Con[ ] recorded 11th July 1775

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes from London on November 18, 1768, to Governor William Pitkin describing the feeling of relief in England when troops were allowed to land in Boston without opposition and giving an account of debates in Parliament upon American affairs. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 300.]

EBENEZER SILLIMAN TO THOMAS HUTCHINSON.

Fairfield 8 Decem^{r} 1768

Dear Sr

This comes under Cover to Doc^{r} Eliot to acknowledge the receit of your Obliging Letter of the 1st of October Last and am in M^{r} Penoyr's Name to thank you for the Care and Pains you took in procureing the Rev^{d} Doc^{r} to Search the Archives of the College in which he hath found a Copy of M^{r} Penoyr's Will ancestor to the present Enquirer and hath requested me to write the Doc^{r} again for a Copy of that Copy he hath in his Office he Imagines he Shall be able to Discover a Considerable Interest in Equity now due to him and others Descendants from that Testator besides the conditional Interest in the Gift to your College.

You really discover what I can easily believe you are truely possessed of an uncommon degree of Humanity as well as Christianity in being willing to part with not only your pecuniary Interest but your usefullness if it might redown to the Peace and quiet of (I had almost said) an ungratefull Country.

But D^{r} Sr can it be true, that it would be the real advantage of a People to have their ablest and most powerfull Members withdraw their aid thô party Spirit and faction exalt themselves and pale Envy and horrid ill Will open wide their pestilential throats. Suffer me to doubt.

These notwithstanding I perceive Your Conduct is not only approved but applauded by more Indifferent and able Judges in whose hands are the powers of Justification and reward, and on which I beg Liberty to congratulate you, and wish you to continue to enjoy the Smiles of your Prince as Long as You Live.

However undesirable the vocifiration of the unthinking Many, yet you are favoured above some others that have felt Sufferings of the Like kind if not to the Same degree; they are Some of them at Least Left to the only Consolation of a Consciousness of haveing done that which they Sincerely thôt in the Time of it not only their indispensable Duty but for the greatest Safety for their Country.

Your Humble Servant counts himself one of this Sort, being not of Sufficient Note as to recommend him to the Notice Smiles and approbation of the King or his Ministers, and so unhappy as to offend so many among whom he dwells as that he is not now Serviceable or usefull among them in the Stations he before Sustained. Yet Anxious for my Country's good cant but dread the Evils that it Seems to be threatened with.

And as you Live where I Suppose you can Learn more of the Temper and disposition and even designs of the British Legislature towards the Colonies than we can in this remote part of the Country what of that you have obtained the Knowlege of if your Leisure will permit You to favour me with will be an additional Obligation of Gratitude on me.

I cant but hope that the Spirit of Faction is upon the decline, for that party rage which prevailed among us apparently abated on the News of the Arival of Regular Troops in Boston that and a Letter writ by our Agent M^{r} Johnson Seemed to give a considerable Turn among us and when that Letter was published in our Last Assembly there appeared a visible Chagrin in Some Countenances and after that Publication no Liberty Scheems as they were called were so much as proposed but we had a very quiet and peaceable Assembly: So that Some Gent^{n} in Merriment bestowed the Epithet of Peace makers on those Troops.

Happy would it be for us all if they or Some other Occurrance might have that Effect.

The Ministry as yet it Seems have not paid any great Deference to the Recommendation of P——t respecting the

Sufferers for Loyalty and friendship to Government in the Late disturbances in America. Indeed Some in Your Government one in Rhode Island and Mr Ingersol in this I perceive have been remembered but all others Seem to be buried in Oblivion.

But I forget that I must have already tired your Patience in reading for which I ask pardon and only Add that I have the Honr to be with great respect

Sr Your most Obedt most
Humble Sert
EBENR SILLIMAN

P S if yr Honr will favour me with a Line I have desired the good Docr to Inclose it in his to Me E. S.

The Honle T Hutchinson Esqr

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson wrote from London on January 3, 1769 to Governor William Pitkin a long letter upon American affairs. In it he described an interview between the Earl of Hillsborough and the agents of the colonies, also the proceedings in Parliament relative to the colonial petitions and views upon taxation. Nothing new has occurred about the Mohegan Case. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 304.]

ACCOUNT OF CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

Account of Receipts and payments in the Office of the Cashier & Paymaster of His Majestys Customs in America, distinguishing the several branches on which the monies have arose, together with the respective branches out of which the Payments have been made pursuant to the directions of the Honole the Commissioners of His Majestys Customs in America from 8 September 1767 to 5 January 1769

Ports	Collectors	Duties by 25th Chas 2	Duties by 6th Geo. 3
New London	Duncan Stewart	526 0 6	233 19 6
New Haven	Peter Harrison		

Silver at 5/6 ℔ oz			Total
oz	dwt	qrs	
2763	12	16	760

NATHANIEL COFFIN ℔ Cashier & paymaster

[Indorsed] Read 16 Dec 1772.

ACCOUNT OF CUSTOMS RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

An Account of the Gross Receipts, Payments & Net Produce by each Act from 5th January 1768 to 5th January 1769 as appears by the Accounts in my Office.

Ports	What Accounts Wanting	Duties by 25th Car: 2d & 4th Geo: 3d Cap: 27	Duties by 6 Geo: 2d & 4th Geo: 3d	Duties by 6 Geo: 3d	Duties by 7th Geo: 3d	Seizures by Officers	Seizures by Ships of War	Total
New London		99 8	211 19 4¼	704 15 6	24 13 3			1040 8 9¼
Newhaven	Christmas Quarter		2 6 10½	46 13 6				49 4¼
*New London		20 16	42 13 5	164 12 3				228 1 8
*Newhaven								

JAMES PORTER Compr Genl

Custom House BOSTON the 15th November 1769

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

LONDON Jany 14th 1769

Sr

I wrote you the 6th Inst by the Packet everything material that had occurred relating to public affairs & now only beg leave to acquaint you that I find Mr Mason is returning to America either in this or the next Ship to Collect it is said some farther Evidence in the Mohegan Case which he is to transmit or return with himself as soon

* These entries are supposed to represent payments.

as possible this is at least the pretence, a principal object however I suspect may be to raise Money by Composition with the Tenants in Possession of the Lands in Question under various Pretenses for the purpose of continuing the Controversy. I doubt not proper attention will be paid to his proceedings there, as well to guard the people from being [?] or imposed upon by his represents as to furnish the Case here with Counter Evidence to that which he may perhaps obtain from Interested Witness's there if what he collects shall appear to be at all material to which purpose I thot it necessary to give you this Intimation & am,

The Report which Obtained when I wrote you last that Mr Granville was soon to be placed at the Head of the Treasy has again subsided & seems now not to have been well founded.

[Indorsed] To Govr Pitkin London Jany 14th 1769.

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON AND WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

New Haven Janry 23d 1769

Sirs

The General Assembly is now Setting here by Adjournment from October; This morning I received and communicated to the same a Letter from Colo Babcock, Copy of which is inclosed; that thereby you may be acquainted with the proceedings and Designs of Our Opponents in the Mohegan Affair.

It is hard to believe that my Lord Hilsborough hath undertaken the part mentioned and surprising to find that a Petition of this kind and Nature is sent hither for the Indians to sign it carries an Appearance of some secret Enemy seeking ways and means to embarrass Our Affairs at this Critical Conjuncture. This Intelligence on Desire of the Assembly is forwarded without Delay; it may of good Use to shew my Lord their Injurious Use of his Name or for such other purposes as you shall think proper.

This Assembly have ordered Bills to be purchased and

forwarded to Mr Jackson to the amount One thousand pounds Sterling

I am With great Truth & Regard
Gentlemen your Obedient
Humble Servant
WM PITKIN

RICHARD JACKSON & WM SAML JOHNSON Esqrs
[Indorsed] Govr Pitkin N Haven Janry 23d 1769

HENRY BABCOCK TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

STONINGTON 18th Jany 1769

Governor Pitkin

Sr

The great regard I have for the Interests of the Colony you preside over will apologize for my giving You the Trouble of this Letter. About a month past Mr Peleg Mason of Lebanon lodged at my House; and shewed Me a Petition signed by the Mohegan Chief, Mr Occum, and five or six other Indians, directed to the King: praying that in Case they should succeed in their Cause against the Colony of Connecticut his Majesty would graciously be pleased, to take them under his more immediate protection and excuse them from paying any Taxes to the Colony, by surrendering the Lands in Controversy to the Crown, promising to pay Twpence sterling ℔ Annum Quit Rent to his Majesty & Heirs forever——*A Notable Bribe*——They farther request that his Majesty would Assign them Trustees to take care of their Lands, that they should not be allowed to sell any without their Trustees permission.

They have a very strong hint of the disaffection of the Colonys in general, which induces them to pray as above. But that I did not so much wonder at, when Mr Mason acquainted Me, that the Petition was sent over by Mr Parks, Masons Agent in London, and that it was draughted by my Lord ———— You know who says Parks, meaning as Mason inform'd Me, my Lord Hillsbrough, who Your Honour is very sensible, has not been remarkable for his Friendship to the Colonies.

That the Authenticity of their Petition should be well vouched they have two persons in Lyme witnessing of it, who came to Westerly, in the Colony of Rhode Island and there made Oath before Mr Justice Vincent, that they saw this Petition signed by the Indians, after being read and explained to them. To which Mr Secretary Ward affixes the Seal of the Colony, and Mr Vincents being a Justice of the Peace is certifyd by Govr Lyndon.

I tho't it my duty to acquaint your Honor of it, and that if You tho't proper the Genl Assembly might be apprized of it, & Mr Johnson our Agent in London notified of it.

I am with great Truth & Regard
Your Honors most Obedt
& Most Humble Servt
HENRY BABCOCK

Copy

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

New Haven Janry 24th 1769

Sir

This morning I received your favour of Novr 18th that you mention of the 20th of October is behind at the same time, His Majesty's principal Secretary of State's Letter of Novr 15th came to hand, and Informs the King's Disapprobation of Our Petition, as founded on principles, & implying Claims and Petentions, that do not correspond with the Constitution and tend to deny and draw into question the supreme Authority of the Legislature of Great Britain to Enact Laws binding on the Colonies in all Cases whatever, and therein is inclosed, His Majesty's Speech, & Addresses of both Houses of Parliament, which he Trusts will have the Effect to defeat & disappoint the Views of those Wicked Men, who seek to Excite disunion & disaffection between Great Britain & her Colonies &c. This come so late to hand, No Answer is Made to it. Is it so, That Our Petition is founded On principles, & Imply Unconstitutional Claims and pretentions?

The Sentiments of our People are similar, & steady, free from any thing of a factious or rebellious Tendency, 'tis earnestly wished and desired That The Present Parliament will Exercise Moderation & concert kind & Conciliating Measures, repeal the Acts Complained off, & Treat the Colonies like Children, not Slaves. That you may be acquainted with our Correspondence with L——d H——s——h, I will mention the Contents of Each Letter——N 6 is Circular, on the Boston Circular Letter of Febry, directs to treat it with the Contempt it deserves as tending To Faction & Rebellion.

Cir. Nº 7. Comands us to Use every legal Method to Apprehend Melchizedeck Kinsman for the Murder of Wm Odgers, if found in our Government. Answered, That advertisement is made of him, with promise of Reward for Apprehending him, but No discovery made of him here.

Cir. Nº 8. a Requisition to give the Comissioners of his Majesty's Customs in America & their Officers, all the Assistance & support in Our Power in the discharge of their respective Offices, & in Carrying the Laws of Trade & Revenue into due Execution.

Cir. Nº 9. Direction to Carry on all our Correspondence to the Board of Trade thro the Channel of his Office.

Cir. Nº 10. To Send our Letters by private ships, & by Pacquets wch shall first Sale.

Cir. Nº 11. Repetition of his Majesty's Comands to Afford Support & Assistance all in our Power to The Comisrs of Customs in America.

Cir. Nº 12. The King's Observation that the Govrs of his Colonies have, upon Several Occasions, taken upon them to Comunicate to their Councils & Assemblies, either the whole or parts of Letters wch they have recd from his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Signifying his Majesty's Pleasure, That We do not, upon Any pretence Whatever, Comunicate to the Assembly, any Copies or Extracts of Such Letters recd from his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, Unless We have his Majesty particular Directions for so doing.

N° 13. Acknowledgm^t of his Rec^t of Answers to N° 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, with our Letter of June 10^th & Petition To The King with Assurance of his Regard for the Colony, the full Credit he Gives us of our Assurances of Loyalty & Affection to our sovereign &c.

There is Now Sent a further Answer to N° 4 which required Our Treas^rs Acc^t of the Disposition of Money for one year. A Tax. What our Revenue, Civil Establishm^t of Officers &c. *

In the Answer

[Indorsed] To M^r Johnson London January 24^th 1769

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

N Haven 24 January 1769

My Lord

We have the Honour of His Majesty's Commands to the Gov^r & Company of Connecticut signified by your Lordships Letter of the 21^st of April Last which is N° 6 to take no notice of and treat with Contempt a Letter from the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Colony of the Massachusets Bay Addressed by Order of that House to the Speaker of the Assembly of each Colony upon y^e Continent of North America As tending to stirr up factions and Sedition among his Majesty's good Subjects and disturb the public Peace.

we beg Liberty to Assure your Lordship that no Letter that we have received hath had and we trust that none that we shall receive will ever have that unhappy and destructive Effect upon his Majesty's Subjects in this Loyal Colony but ever mindfull of our Duty to the best of Kings constantly endeavour to testify our Strong Attachment to his Royal Person and Government by Lives Quiet and peaceable and by a due observance of the Law and Constitution we have the Happiness to be the Subjects off

with humble and gratefull Pleasure we hear of the Royal Notice our most gracious Sovereign hath Taken of

* This paragraph has been crossed off in the original manuscript.

the repeated Proofs given by the General Assembly of this Colony of their Reverence and Respect for the Laws and their faithfull Attachment to the Constitution we trust that it will be a Strong Motive to us all ways to endeavour to merit the Royal Favour and Esteem; and to detest and oppose every Attempt that may be made to prejudice the British Nation and her Colonies.
[Indorsed] Answer to N° 6

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

N° 10.

HARTFORD 1st Februry 1769.

My Lord

In answer to your Letter N° 10 I have to inform your Lordship, that there few private Ships in this Colony by which Oppertunities may be had to convey Letters to England, and my Distance from Boston and New York the nearest Places of any considerable Trade and Navigation is so remote that I seldom hear of private Ships being about to sail from these Ports, and haveing thought it most agreable to his Majestys Secretaries of State for this Department to receive Public Letters from hence by the Packetts, I have generally made Use of that Channel of Conveyance; But shall for the future with the greatest Pleasure conform to your Lordships Directions and write by the first Oppertunity that offers whither Packett, or private Ship. And shall ever think myself happy in communicating to you Inteligence of such publick Transactions In this Colony as are proper to be laid before his Majesty in such Manner as may be most agreable to your Lordship.

I am with the greatest Esteem & Regard
My Lord Your Lordships most Obdnt
most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

The Right Honourable The Earl of HILLSBOROUGH
[Indorsed] Hartford Connecticut. 1st Feby 1769 Govr Pitkin (N° 10) R 17 April

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

N° 7

HARTFORD 2d Februy 1769

My Lord

I have to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordships Letter N° 7, with the several Papers transmitted therewith, Relative to the Murder of William Odgers, an Officer of the Customs, Charged on Melchisedeck Kinsman, who is said to have come over in one of the New York Packetts. Signifying his Majestys Pleasure, that all legal Methods be taken for the Apprehending of the sd Kinsman if to be found within this Government.

On the Receipt whereof I immediately issued a Proclamation for the apprehending said Kinsman, therein engaging an ample Reward to such as should take him within this Colony, and Deliver him into the Hands of Authority, that he might be brought to Justice.

But hitherto no Discovery hath been made of said Kinsman, if hereafter he should be found within this Colony, your Lordship may be assured, that nothing shall be wanting on my Part to secure That Notorious Offender, that he may be brought to condign Punishment.

I have the Honor to be My Lord
Your Lordships most Obednt
& most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

The Right Honorable The Earl of HILLSBOROUGH &c

[Indorsed] Hartford, Connecticut 2d Febry 1769 Govr Pitkin (N° 7) R 17th April

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

N° 9

HARTFORD 2d Febry 1769

My Lord

I acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordships Letter dated July 4th 1768 N° 9, agreable to his Majestys Order I

shall look upon it my Duty to transmit all my Dispatches to your Lordship and confine myself to that Channel of Correspondance for the Future.

I Thank your Lordship for the kind Assurance you give us, that you will lay before the Board of Trade such Matters arising out of our Correspondance with you, as shall appear to be necessary for their Consideration.

I am with Esteem & Regard My Lord
Your Lordships most Obd^{nt}
and most Humb^{le} Serv^{nt}
WM PITKIN

To The Right Honourable The Earl of HILLSBOROUGH &c
[Indorsed] Hartford, Connecticut 2^{d} Feb^{y} 1769. Gov^{r} Pitkin (N^{o} 9) R 17 April

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

N^{o} 13.

HARTFORD 2^{d} Feb^{ry} 1769.

My Lord

I have the Honor of your Lordships Letter of the 12th of October last which is N^{o} 13 wherein you acquaint me, you have been so good as to lay before his Majesty the several Letters therein mentioned, together with the Petition of this Colony for Relief of what we esteem a great Greivance not only to this but to all the Colonies on the Continent of America.

Permit me to express the grateful Sense that I and the Colony of Connecticut have of your Lordships Care and Attention therein, and the Happiness we exult in of the benevolent Assurances you are pleas'd to give us of regarding this Colony which justifies to us the Satisfaction we have taken in the Arrangements the King hath made respecting his American Colonies, and I trust we shall always by our Conduct, fully justify the Credit you have given to our Assurance of unshaken Loyalty & Affection to

the Person and Government of our most Gracious Sovereign
I have the Honor to bee with esteem
my Lord, your Lordships most
Obedn Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To The Right Honorable The Earl of Hillsborough &c
[Indorsed] Hartford, Connecticut 2d Feby 1769. Govr Pitkin (No 13) R 17 April

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[A long letter written from London by William Samuel Johnson to Governor William Pitkin on February 9, 1769, describes the debates and action in the House of Commons on American affairs and gives the writer's views upon some of the matters in the controversy. Nothing new in the Mohegan Case. The petition of Connecticut in 1766 and another since that date have both been laid before his Majesty. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 312.]

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

No 11
Hartford 10th Feby 1769.

My Lord

I have to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordships Letter circular No 11 dated the 11 July last informing that the Commissioners of his Majestys Customs in North America further complain of Obstructions they and their Officers meet with in the Execution of their Duty, and signifying that it was his Majestys Royal Pleasure, that I should use the most strenuous Efforts, and exert myself in the most effectual Manner for the Support of the Commissioners of the Customs, and to enable them to discharge the Duty of their respective Offices and carry the Laws of Trade & Revennue into due Execution.

I have now to inform your Lordship that I have not known or heard of any Resistance or Opposition made to sd Commissioners in this Colony, nor of any thing that had a

Tendency to deter them from the Execution of their Office; and trust there will be none, as we are quiet in that Respect, at the present Day.

I have the Honor to be
my Lord, your Lordships most
Obedⁱⁿᵗ Humᵇˡ Servᵛⁿᵗ
Wᴹ PITKIN

To The Right Honoraᵇˡᵉ The Earl of HILLSBOROUGH &ᶜ London

[Indorsed] Hartford, Connecticut 10 Febʸ 1769 Govʳ Pitkin (Nº 11) R 17 April.

WILLIAM PITKIN TO EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.

Nº 8

HARTFORD 10th Febʳʸ 1769

My Lord

I receiv'd your circular Letter dated May the 14th 1768, wherein you signify that the Commissioners of his Majestys Customs in America have represented that their Officers meet with great Obstructions, and are deter'd from exerting themselves in the executing their Duty and that it is his Majestys Pleasure that I give them all the Assistance and Support in my Power in Discharge of their several Offices, and in carrying the Laws of Trade and Revennue into due Execution.

I have the Pleasure to inform your Lordship, I have not known or heard of any Opposition to these his Majestys Commissioners, in this Colony nor of any thing that had a Tendency to deter them from exerting themselves, in the Execution of their Duty.

I am, My Lord
your Lordships most Obedⁿᵗ
& most Humᵇˡᵉ Servᵛⁿᵗ
Wᴹ PITKIN

The Right Honoraᵇˡᵉ The Earl of HILLSBOROUGH &c London

[Indorsed] Hartford, Connecticut 10th Febʳʸ 1769, Govʳ Pitkin (Nº. 8) R 17 April

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

HARTFORD 15th Febry 1769

Sir

Your Favour of the 18th Novembr last I have Receiv'd, that of the 20th Octobr therein refer'd to, not yet come to Hand. The inteligence you Favour me with in your last, is an additional Proof of the tumultuous State of the Nation; many things there are, which much dampen our Joys, and sink our Expectations; after all I cant but Hope a Calm will speedily ensue; and Liberty that fairest of Flowers, upon the Returning Spring will put forth and Blossom. Wrong Representations excite often Jealosies, these one excited and becoming predominant, have been a grand Source of many Altercations between Private Persons and Communities, which often end in Bitterness and most unkind Carriage. Would Great Britain turn an Impartial Eye upon the Americans they may Read in their Hearts, unshaken Attachment to, and the highest Affection to the present Royal person & Family, and a fondness for their Mother Country. Would they consider impartially their Pains & Expence in settling this Country, and the Effects of their Labour flowing into them in a Way of Trade, would they not feel a compassionate Concern for our Welfare. A perfect Harmony with Great Britain is our Desire; Lenations will heal the Breach which is made, and kindness the strongest Chains by which we can be bound to our Mother Country. I wrote to you on a special Occasion the 23d of Janry last, which I hope will be receiv'd as it relates to the Cause with which you are especially charg'd. Hoping for your succes in that, and in Every Affair for the good of the Colony, and the Welfare of America.

I am with great Truth & Regard
Sr your most Obednt
& most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To WM SAMLL JOHNSON Esqr.
[Indorsed] Mr Pitkin Hartford Feby 15th 1769

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

HARTFORD 16th Febry 1769

Sir

Your Favours of the 5th & 13th of Octobr last I have Receiv'd, and gratefully acknowledge the Readiness you shew, in offering your Interest and Influence for promoting the Welfare of this Colony.

In your last you mentioned the Receipt and Acceptance of Bills of Exchange to the amount of £525 o o o. As the Expences of the Colony are peculiar at the present Day, a further Supply was thot necessary, accordingly other Bills will be purchas'd and forwarded. I now send three Bills, the first Sett, amounting to £281 2 3 o. others will be transmitted from time to time, as Oppertunity presents. Recommending what relates to the Happiness of the Colony, to your Attention

I am with Esteem & Regard,
Sr, your most Obedt
& most Humble Servt
WM PITKIN

To RICHARD JACKSON Esqr &c London.
[Indorsed] To Mr Jackson Febry 16th 1769.

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson wrote at length from London on March 23, 1769, to Governor William Pitkin about American affairs. The proceedings in Parliament were described. The Earl of Hillsborough when interviewed denied having had anything to do with a petition of the Mohegan Indians to his Majesty. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 *Collections*, IX. 322.]

WILLIAM PITKIN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HARTFORD 17th April 1769.

Sir

I am very lately advis'd by a Letter from Mr Johnson dated London 14th Janry 1769, that Mr Mason was about to

return to America in the Ship which brought his Letter, or the Ship that should next after Sail, in order to Collect, Mr Johnson observes, "some further Evidence in the Mohegan Cause, which he is either to transmit, or Return with himself as soon as possible, that is at lest the Pretence;" but further Observes, "a principle Object however I suspect may be, under various Pretences, to raise Money by Composition with the Tenants in Possession of the Lands in Question, for the Purpose of continuing the Controversy".

I ask your Honors Attention to this new proposed Procedure, as it is altogether unlikely, that any further Evidence can be obtain'd, from impartial and disinterested Persons; and also, to advise and Guard the People therein concern'd, that they be not carried away with his Representations, in Case he should arrive and make any Attempt of this Nature.

I am with Esteem
Your Honours most Obedⁿᵗ
and most Humᵇˡᵉ Servᵗ
Wᴹ PITKIN

To the Honorᵇˡᵉ Jonathᴺ Trumbull Esqr at Lebanon.
[Superscribed] To the Honorᵇˡᵉ Jonathan Trumbull Esq in Lebanon
[Indorsed] Letter from Govr Pitkin dated April 17. 1769 recd Aprl 18th

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes on April 26, 1769, from London, to Governor William Pitkin, giving a long account of the arguments offered in the House of Commons on a proposal to repeal the American Revenue Act. No progress is made in the Mohegan Case. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society, 5 Collections*, IX. 334.]

JOHN POWNALL TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Circular to all the Governors on the Continent and Islands.

WHITEHALL May 13th 1769

Sir,

I send you herewith by the earl of Hillborough's directions, Copies of several Acts passed in the last Session of Parliament, which relate to America.

I am &c^{a}

J POWNALL

LIST OF ACTS.

An Act to allow for a further time the free Importation of Rice into this Kingdom, from His Majesty's Colonies in North America.

An Act for amending and further continuing an Act of of the Sixth Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled, an Act to amend and render more effectual in his Majesty's Dominions in America, an Act passed in this present Session of Parliament, intituled an Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, and for the better Payment of the Army and their Quarters.

An Act to permit the Inhabitants of Jersey and Guernsey to export directly from thence to Newfoundland, or the British Colonies in America, Goods necessary for the Fishery under certain restrictions; and to import from thence non-enumerated Goods (except Rum) and to Land the same in the said Islands.

An Act to permit the free Importation of certain Raw Hides and Skins from Ireland, and the British Plantations in America for a limited time, and for taking off the Duties upon Seal Skins Tanned or Tawed, in this Kingdom, and for granting another Duty in lieu thereof; for indemnifying all persons with respect to advising or executing any of His Majesty's Orders of Council, prohibiting the importation of Hides, Horns and Hoofs of infected Cattle, and to authorize prohibition of the importation of such Hides, Horns and Hoofs for the future.

An Act to continue an Act made in the Eighth Year of the Reign of His Present Majesty, intituled, an Act to continue an Act made in the Fifth Year of the Reign of His Present Majesty, intituled an Act for the importation of Salt Beef, Pork, Bacon & Butter from Ireland for a limited Time; & for allowing the importation of Salt Beef, Pork, Bacon and Butter from the British Dominions in America for a limited Time.

An Act for continuing certain Laws therein mentioned for granting for a limitted Time, a liberty to carry Rice from His Majestys Provinces of South and North Carolina and Georgia directly to any part of America to the Southward of the said Provinces, subject to the like Duty as is now paid on the exportation of Rice from the said Colonies to places in Europe, situate to the Southward of Cape Finisterre.*

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Circular (N° 16.)

WHITEHALL 13 May 1769

Gentlemen,

Inclosed I send you the gracious Speech made by the King to His Parliament at the Close of the Session on Tuesday last.

What His Majesty is pleased to say in relation to the measures which have been pursued in North America, will not escape your Notice, as the Satisfaction His Majesty expresses in the approbation His Parliament has given to them, and the assurances of their firm Support in the prosecution of them, together with His Royal Opinion of the great advantages that will probably accrue from the Concurrence of every Branch of the Legislature in the resolution of maintaining a due execution of the Laws cannot fail to produce the most salutary effects.

From hence it will be understood that the whole Legislature concur in the opinion adopted by His Majesty's

*Transmitted to Georgia and the Carolinas only.

Servants, that no measure ought to be taken which can any way derogate from the Legislative Authority of Great Britain over the Colonies; but I can take upon me to assure you, notwithstanding insinuations to the contrary, from Men with factious and seditious Views, that His Majesty's present Administration have at no time entertained a Design to propose to Parliament to lay any further Taxes upon America for the purpose of raising a Revenue, and that it is at present their intention to propose in the next Session of Parliament to take off the Duties upon Glass, Paper, and Colours, upon Consideration of such Duties having been laid contrary to the true principles of Commerce.

These, Gentlemen, have always been, and still are, the Sentiments of His Majesty's present Servants, and the principles by which their Conduct in respect to America has been governed, and His Majesty relies upon your prudence & fidelity for such an explanation of His measures, as may tend to remove the prejudices which have been excited by the misrepresentations of those who are Enemies to the Peace and Prosperity of Great Britain & Her Colonies; and to re-establish that mutual Confidence and affection, upon which the Glory and Safety of the British Empire depend.

I am Gentlemen
Your most obedient
Humble Servant
HILLSBOROUGH

Governor and Company of Connecticut

[Indorsed] from the Secretary of State May 13th 1769 Recd 24 July recorded July 1775

EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

(No 15.)

WHITEHALL May the 13th 1769.

Sir,

I have received and laid before the King your several letters numbered 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13, but no letter numbered 12, is yet come to hand.

The attention you have shewn to the King's Commands, contained in the several letters from me, the receipt of which you acknowledge, is approved by His Majesty; and His Majesty considers, in the most gracious manner, the Sentiments of Loyalty and Affection professed by His Subjects in the Colony of Connecticut, which may always depend upon His royal protection for the promoting it's true interest and Welfare. I am with Truth and Regard

Sir Your Most Obedient

Servant

HILLSBOROUGH

Governor PITKIN.

[Indorsed] Secretary State May 13th 1769 Recd 24th July

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Southampton Buildings LONDON 16 May 1769

Sir

Inclosed I transmit my Account with the Colony from the foot of that, I first settled with you, upon your coming into the Government. Since which time I have more than once informed you of what I had paid to Mr Johnson, as well as computed what I conjectured then remained in my hands, but to my recollection I have not before stated the whole Acct & struck any Ballance upon it. Mr Johnson has examined this Account with ye Vouchers; I now also transmit, those Receipts of his which I have not before transmitted, & which in case what I before sent have reached your hands safely amount together with them to ye Sum for which I take Credit (to wit) £1019 10s advanced to him on the Colony Account in near 2 year & 1/2 pursuant to ye Vote of Assembly. I am sure I need not say that Gentleman does not only contribute many ways to ye Service of his Country, but lives with ye Strictest Frugality in a Place where ye Expences of all Sorts are very heavy. I am sorry the Suspence we are kept in by ye Patrons & Agents of ye Mohegin Indians, should make his stay if not necessary, at least of great Use; because it is impossible to forsee how

long this Suspence may continue, however I am well persuaded that ye Observations Mr Johnson has it both in his Power & Inclinations to make, & the hints he has given will be of lasting Service to ye Colony, though the Mohegin Suit, should never be brought to a Determination. In the mean time Money will be necessary, but though it will be better to have it before hand I will take Care that neither the Cause nor Mr Johnson shall want it.

Since I wrote the above I have paid Mr Johnson One hundred Pounds more, for which you now receive his Receipt indorsed on ye back of that preceding it & which sum of £100 stands at ye foot of ye inclosed Account because not Actually paid when that account drawn up. So that Mr Johnson since his Arrival has received of me in about 2 years & 1/2,, £1119 10s please to acquaint me in your Answer how far this corresponds with your Accounts. Mr Johnson has very carefully examine all the Bills that I have paid as well as my other Vouchers & which I will transmit over in case it will be any further Satisfaction.

I rejoice with you in the Prospect of ye Repeal of the last Revenue Law, I intended to have moved that Repeal myself, having originally opposed its passing, and foreseeing its mischievous Effect, I gave notice of my Intention, but another Gentleman pressing that he might take that part upon him the last Session when we knew it was too late to carry our Point this Season, I contented myself with supporting the motion, & more particularly a motion made by General Conway for ye Consideration of the Act next Year, the Consideration of it was understood to mean the Repeal, so was not publickly yeilded to, because those who mean to give way to ye Repeal did not chuse to lay themselves under a Parliamentary obligation, but they have since given out voluntarily what they thought proper on the Occasion. I fear however that the Repeal will be qualified more than I wish, but I am glad to obtain what we can, the rather as I hope & believe no more Acts of this kind will pass. We are in readiness to meet the Supporters of the Mohegin Indians whenever they are prepared to

bring their Cause on before y^e^ Lords of the Council, but this Depends on them & not on us. I am Sir

with great Esteem & Regard

y^r^ most Obed^t^

hble Serv^t^

R^D^ JACKSON

[Indorsed] from M^r^ Jackson May 16^th^ 1769 Rec^d^ in August

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes a long letter from London on May 25, 1769, to Governor William Pitkin giving an account of political affairs in England relating to both English and American interests and observations upon the situation and probable result of ministerial plans to alter or repeal Acts concerning revenue from the American colonies. Nothing new in the Mohegan Case. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society*, 5 Collections, IX. 343.]

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

HARTFORD 1^t^ June 1769.

Sir

Since I last wrote to you, your Favours of the 20^th^ Octo^br^, 3^d^ of Janu^y^, 9^th^ of Febr^y^, and 23^d^ of March came safe to hand, as also that of 14^th^ Janu^ry^ in which you mention M^r^ Masons Return to America with an Account of his Pretences, and your Suspicion of his principle Object. He gave out very early after his Arrival, that he would not give a Groat to be insured a Recovery of the Lands in Controversy.

M^r^ Lisle, Solicitor of his Majestys American Customs hath been with him at Norwich and Mohegan, to assist in taking some further Evidences in the Case, and to Authenticate the same. M^r^ Mason we understand says, he cant get his Papers & Evidences taken and Authenticated by Authority in the Colony which is a very unjust Representation. He keeps his Designs & Doings to himself and the Circle of his interested Friends. It is Reported that the

Petition from the Mohegan Indians Praying to be taken under his Majestys immediate Protection, on Account of the Disloyalty and Disaffection of the Colony, and offering to pay to the Crown a Quit Rent for all their Lands &c. which was procured and sent last Winter, but not arriv'd to his Hand before he came away, is one principal thing he came to obtain. Another is to procure Evidences, by which to compute the Mean Profits. For this Purpose, 'tis said, he improv'd three of his Norwich Friends to ascertain the Quantity and estimate the Value of the Lands demanded, before any Improvement made on them, which they sell at Thirty Shillings p^{r} Acre. Allowing Twenty Years Rents for Buildings Fences Clearing &c. and Three Pounds p^{r} Cent, p^{r} Annum afterwards, they find the Mean Profits to yield upward of £120,000 St^{ng}. Further that this Government and its Agents have used their Artifice to keep off the Hearing. That his Uncles Attorney M^{r} A——ly was bribed with £500 St^{ng} to prevent any Trial. That when the Solicitor of the Exchequer was order'd to carry on the Case at the Publick Expence, his Debts order'd to be paid, he gave a list among others of one to M^{r} R—ne who was induced to declare upon Application to him, that he neither knew of any such Debt due to him or any such Person, thereby to bring Disgrace on him, and occasion Delay. M^{r} Occum, he says, procured for him 40 Guineas from s^{d} Gentleman, and he sent his Note of Hand for the same.

Whither his Friends can and will furnish any Money for his Return is Doubtfull. The Tenants in Possession of of the Lands in Question, do not appear inclin'd to make any Composition with him, altho 'tis highly probable your Suspicions were not ungrounded.

Benjamin Uncas the last Sachem of the Mohegan Indians, departed this Life on the 12th of May last he made his last Will and Testament which is prov'd &c. a Copy of which is inclosed. On Occasion of his Death, the Assembly considering the Necessity of taking Care of their Welfare, and preventing Difficulties & Disputes Among them, appointed Gurdon Saltonstall Jabez Hamlin Pygan Adams and

William Hilhouse Esq^rs a Comittee to repair forthwith to Mohegan, Collect so many of the Tribe as willingly would meet with them on the Occasion, to Consult what was best to be done relative to a Sachem, what was needfull to prevent Difficulties and Disputes which has arisen, or might be likely to arise among them, and Generally to enquire after the best Way & Means to promote their good Agrement and Welfare.

Who reported that the Indians in the Interest of John Uncas, do not seem by any Means disposed, either to talk about the Instalment of a Sachem, or making Distribution of their Lands for Improvement at present, but choose to have those Matters postpon'd for some Time, to know the Event of the Cause now depending in Great Britain between this Colony and the Mohegan Sachem & Indians, nor do they desire any Counsel or Assistance from the Colony at present. That those Indians who are in the Interest of the late deceas'd Sachem's Family are desirious that Isaiah eldest Son of s^d Deceas'd should be declared Sachem of the Mohegan Tribe, according to the Will of s^d Deceas'd, and hope for the Governments Assistance therein, but dont seem inclined to have their Lands divided for Improvement. That in short the Expectations of the greater part of the Tribe from the Event of the Suit in London, and their Jealosy of the Friendship of the Colony, seems at present to prevent the good Effects of any Tenders of Favours or Assistance that can be offered them by the Government. I have laid before the Assembly yours of March 23^d wherein it is mentioned, that on reciving a Letter of the 23^d of Jan^ry relative to a Petition of several Mohegan Indians, to his Majesty, you waited on Lord Hillsborough, and represented to him the Inteligence you receiv'd from hence, that he was the Adviser and even Draftsman of the same, and that after your Observations on the Subject. He agreed with you that such Endeavours used to influence the Cause was not to be justified; that if he had advised it, he had taken a very improper Part; that he thanked you for the Information given him of the ill Use which had been made of

his Name, and desired you to Exculpate him with the Colony from taking any Part, (much less so improper a one) in the Affair, with the Assurance that he neither had nor would give any Countenance to any Slip of this kind, and that he hoped the fairest Trial would be given to the Cause, and the most impartial Justice in it. You are authoriz'd to take an early Oppertunity properly to express to his Lordship, the Sense this Colony have of his Integrity, and gratefully acknowledge his kind Desires that the most impartial Justice may take Place in the Cause between the Gover^{nr} & Company of Connecticut, with the Mohegan Sachem and Indians.

The General Assembly have appointed a Comittee to treat with the Indians relative to a Sachem, and to lay before them the State of the Controversy carried on by M^{r} Mason in their Behalf before his Majesty in Council. you will Receive Advice from them, when any thing worthy of Notice Occurs.

The unhappy Differences subsisting between our Mother Country and her British Colonies are very affecting to us, especially to observe that any Person or Persons residing in this Colony suspected of any Crimes whatsoever, committed therein, may be Seised and sent to Places beyond the Seas to be tried, which is Derogatory of the Rights of British Subjects, as thereby the inestimable Privilidge of being tried by a Jury from the Vicinage, as well as the Liberty of summoning and producing Witnesses on such Trial will be taken away from the Party accused.

Your Inteligence from time to time meets with Approbation, you will go on to inform of Occurrances, as they happen. We hope the mutual Interests of both Countries will be better known, Misrepresentations from our Enemies in America fully detected, and our Liberties and Privilidges, well ascertain'd and secur'd.

There are no New Manufactures sett up in the Colony, British and European Goods are not so freely purchas'd among us, as heretofore, Industry Frugality and Manufacturing Linnen and Wollen &c. in private Families are

apparently increasing.

I am with Esteem & Regard
S^r your most Obed^nt
& most Humb^l Servn^t
WM PITKIN

P. S. 9th June &c

I have now to inform you that on the 6th of Instant June Isaiah eldest Son to the late Sachem, a Coron'l among the Mohegans, and an old Counsellor to the late Uncas, and a young Man of that Tribe came to this Town, to own and acknowledge their Subjection to the Colony of Connecticut, and to ask their Patronage. Hereupon a Comittee was appointed to confer with them; after which Conferance they appear'd to be well satisfied, and took leave of the Assembly expecting soon to meet the above mentioned Comittee at Mohegan.

I am &c.
W: P.

To WM SAML JOHNSON Esqr &c London

DUNCAN STEWART TO THOMAS BRADSHAW.

Sir

I did Myself the Honor to write to you the 21st of February last, to sollicit your Interest for getting me removed to Salem in Case the Collector Mr Fisher should choose to go to Portsmouth. I sent the Letter under Cover to my Sister, but I have learned since that she had left London, so that I am affraid my Application by that means would be too late. I however hope you was so good as to pardon the Liberty I took, and impute it to the great Desire I had to carry Mrs Stuart to a Place where she would be within two or three Hours ride of her Father and Friends at Boston, whereas the Distance at present is above 100 Miles, some of which very bad Roads.

I now transmit by Order of the Commissioners, an Aggregate Accompt of the Duties collected at this Port in the Months of January, February, March, April & May amounting in the whole to £318:3:2.

What Money is left, after paying the Incident Charges is regularly remitted to the Receiver General, but the Balance can not be ascertained exactly till the End of the Year, as it is not certainly known till then the Incidents that are allowed by the Commissioners. When that Accompt is returned I shall not fail to transmit what is further required in the Treasury Order.

The smallness of the Sum collected, is to be sure somewhat owing to several Vessels, belonging to this District, having entered their Cargoes at Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, but there is no doubt with me but what it is in a great Measure owing to a great many Goods being run, an Evil that in my humble Opinion can never effectually be prevented unless Sea Vessels (whose Burthen ought to be at least 70 Tons) are obliged by Law to unlaod at particular Quays. But as long as Vessels are allowed to land their Cargoes at the Distance of 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 Miles from the Custom House Business is and must be carried on in a very loose manner, and all Endeavors to check it are in vain. If I make Seizures the Stores are broke open, the Goods taken away and Wo to him that would make a Discovery. Besides that, the Superior Court will not grant Writs of Assistants. I shall therefore take the Liberty to say — That the present Poverty and very ill Temper in which the People are in considered Whither Measures for the effectual Regulation of Trade, and Bracing up of Government in this Country should not be the first Attention of Great Britain?

I came here near five Years ago, the beginning of Troubles. It is therefore not to be wondered at if I should long to see again my dear native Country. But from the Hopes I am in that Administration is fixt upon setting things upon another Footing, I am determined not to think of quitting this Ground for the present—In Case, my Service, poor as it is may be necessary.

I am, with the greatest Respect and Regard,
Sir Your most obedient humble Servant
DUNCAN STEWART.

New London, 7th June 1769.
Thomas Bradshaw Esqr.

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

HARTFORD 9th June 1769

Sir

Since my last to you of the 16th of Febry, I have Receiv'd no Inteligence from you; before this you acknowledg'd the Receipt of Bills of Exchange to the amount of £525 0 0. I then inclosed Three Bills (First Sett,) for the Sum of £281 2s 3d I now inclose the Second Sett, in Case of the Failure of the Former. I have wrote to Mr Johnson something largely upon the Mohegan Cause, to whom I refer you for particular Information. Relying on your Wisdom and Fidelity, for promoting of this Colony's Welfare, as well as that of America in general,

I am with Esteem & Regard
Sr your most obednt
& most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To RICHARD JACKSON Esqr &c London.
[Indorsed] Richard Jackson Esqr 9th June 1769

COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS FOR AMERICA TO COMMISSIONERS OF THE TREASURY.

May it please your Lordships,

Having directed our Officers in the several Ports of America to apply to the Superior or Supreme Courts in each Province for Writs of Assistants, pursuant to your Lordships Commands signified to Us by Mr. Bradshaw's Letter of 1st Septr 1768, We now beg Leave to lay before your Lordships the Answer we have received from the Ports of New London & Philadelphia thereupon.

Which is humbly submitted.
WM BURCH
HEN. HULTON
J. TEMPLE
CHAS. PASTON
JNO ROBINSON

Customhouse BOSTON 12th June 1769

CONFERENCE BETWEEN SUPERIOR COURT OF CONNECTICUT AND DUNCAN STEWART.

Substance of a Conference held between the Superior Court of the Colony of Connecticutt and Duncan Stewart Esq^{r} Collector of his Majestys Customs at the Port of New London the 31st March 1769.

Collector—In place of the Writt of Assistants which I hoped your Honors would have at once granted me after seeing M^{r} De Greys very clear and Judicous opinion, the Kings Attorney tells me the Court will consider of it, and that I might return to the Custom House, is it so?

Sup^{r} Court—Yes.

Collector—May it please your Honours. Even if I had returned to N London without solliciting this interview my Superiours would not have blamed me, as I have already done all that was required of me, but the sense I have of my duty, the regard I have for this Colony will not allow me, untill I have first mentioned to your Honors all that occurrs to me to induce you to grant what has been applied for without loss of time; It is now so long ago as last February was a twelve month since application was made to your Honours for this purpose, The assembly have sat three times since, you never have told us what their opinion was, and our power has by that means been suspended ever since. The Kings service I declare to you upon my Honour has suffer'd by it, now suffers, and will suffer much more if you do not grant to us writts of Assistants—it hurts me the unequality with which buisiness is carried on—at the time I am taking the Kings Duties from one Merchant, I know that another has avoided the payment of them by running his goods, which he may do with impunity, as it is not in the power of the Officers of the Customs to seize them, after he has once Stored them. We have waited however patiently from the hopes it would soon be otherwise, but this answer of your Honours distresses me. I beg to be indulged with the opinion of your Honours separately.

Chief Judge—As to my own part I still consider that the Court has had but too little time to meditate and to consult upon an Affair of so much importance, as that of granting General warrants, when it was proposed before, I wrote immediately to our agent at home Dr Johnson, who was entirely at a loss how to advise, notwithstanding he had taken the greatest pains. I own that Mr De Grey's Opinion has thrown new light upon the matter, and that a Writt of Assistants does not appear to me in so terrible a light as it did, but Mr Stewart from the time he has lived in the Colony, is now so far a Judge of the constitution as to be sensible the Superior Court can do nothing with safety to themselves, contrary to the General sense of the People, and as the Assembly meets in May I think it will be our duty to postpone it till then, at least to defer it some days longer. I however take it in good part what Mr Stewart has said, and I look upon it as a mark of his friendship towards the people of this Colony by whom I beleive he is generally Esteemed.

Collo Walker—The other Judges spoke much to the same effect and one of them said further.

I do not see why the Collector needs be uneasy, as he has still the same power as Officers of the Customs formerly had, that is, to enter into houses &ca by their own Authority.

Collector—Pardon me Sir if I say that I humbly apprehend an Officer of the Customs never had such a power, but now I take it to be certain that I cannot enter into any House or other place upon the land to search for prohibited goods, without a Writt of Assistants, and if your Honours as being Judges of this Court do not grant me one you take it upon yourselves to deprive me effectually of that power given to me by Parliament as a Custom house Officer, since I cannot obtain it any other way, for I was to apply upon a special occasion to a Justice of the Peace, no one in his right senses would give a writt he had no Authority to grant by Law. I beg leave to appeal to you Mr Kings Attorney whither I am right?

Kings Attorny—Yes.

Judge Walker—If so to be sure I was mistaken.

Collector—Give me leave to say further the situation of your Honours in the present affair is no doubt critical, it is therefore with pleasure I mention what occurrs to me to make it less so. Your Honours allow that since reading the case signed by the Kings Attorney General, granting writts of assistants or General warrants to Custom house Officers, does not now appear such a dreadfull affair as it did, on that account is it not likely that the people also will have a different idea of it? to prevent therefore any blame being thrown upon your Honours, would it not be well if this motion was made in open Court. The case with Mr De Grey's opinion read aloud and the ill tendency pointed out by your Honours that might accrue to the Colony from a non-compliance with an Act of Parliament, and to soften the matter entirely that the Writts your Honours proposed at this time to grant were indeed General, but so worded as to be returnable in a certain number of days after the meeting of the assembly, that application was only made for the Collector and Comptroller who could not be suppos'd capable of using them for any other purpose than what they were intended for.

The Court however did not think proper to assent to the proposal and immediately after the Collector returned to New London having first desired the favour of the Judges to give directions to the Clerk of the Court to send them the result of their Deliberation in writing.

The Court is since broke up and the Collector has had only a Verbal Message from the Kings Attorney that the Court had not as yet sufficiently consider'd the matter.

In the above conference the Collector also mentioned that two or three nights ago a Store in which he had lodged twenty eight Hogsheads of Foreign Rum, which he had seized had been broke open, and all the Rum Clandestinely taken away.

In answer to which the Court told them that they were to be viewd in the light of stolen Goods and that any Justice could give a special warrant in such a case, and if the Col-

lector wanted such a one the Court was ready to do it. The Collector replied that if a Justice could do it there would be no occasion, what he wanted from the Superiour Court was a General one which would answer every purpose, that he hoped their Honours would advise the Governour to take such steps as would convince the people that Offences of that nature were highly disagreable to the Government, The Court agreed to this and expressed great concern at its having happen'd.

[Indorsed] 31st March 1769. Substance of a Conference held between the Superior Court of the Colony of Connecticut, and Duncan Stewart Esqr Collr of His Majesty's Customs at the Port of New London about Writts of Assistants.

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

HARTFORD 16th June 1769

Sir

In my last of the 9th of June instant I inclosed the Second Sett of Bills three in Number, to the Vallue of £281 2 3 since which there is come to hand one Bill for £100 0 0 Stng and one the draft of Mis Newberry the precise Vallue of which is not here known, but conclude it will be about £25 0 0 both of which I now inclose. you will advise from time to time, of what is needful to be transmitted.

I am with Esteem and Regard
Sr, Your most Obedt
and most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To RICHARD JACKSON Esqr &c London

[Indorsed] Richard Jackson Esqr 16th June 1769

RICHARD JACKSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Southampton Buildings 25 June 1769

Sir

Inclosed I transmit you another Copy of my Acct as it stood with the Colony when drawn out, since which, having

paid £100 to Mr Johnson & received 2 Bills it becomes varied as under

Dr						
Ballance due to the Colony	£89	4	2¾			
2 Bills received	231	2	2	320	6	4¾
Cr ℔ Contra						
Paid Mr Johnson	£100	0	0			
Ballance in hand	220	6	4¾	320	6	4¾
Ballance brought down				£220	6	4¾
Computed to be already expended in Mohegin Suit	£100	0	0			
Salary due to Mr Life in August this is due though not paid to Mr Life &c	50	0	0	150	0	0
				70	6	4¾

This Sum is all that will be applicable to ye Mohegin Suit or Mr Johnsons Expences after ye Month of Augt, & will soon be exhausted as I believe Mr Johnson is under a necessity while he continues here of spending £500 a year.

29 June 1769

When I wrote the other side, I had received information that a Bill of £50 remitted to me by you & drawn by Gedney Clarke of Barbadoes on Udney & Compy, though due, was not paid, & I was about to transmit you the usual Protest, I am since inform'd they have since sent word they will pay the Bill. I do not therefor inclose the Protest The Money therefore in my hands applicable to future purposes will stand as in my last Acct 70 6 4¾

This Bill if paid 50

120 6 4¾

I am Sir
with the greatest Regard
Yr most Obedt
most hble Servt
RD JACKSON

You will I believe take Notice of an immaterial Mistake in copying the former Copy of the Acct I sent you the Bills remitted in Novr last being entered £500, as I am since told, instead of £525: but I call this mistake immaterial, because, the Totals & consequently the Balances are right.

NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF MERCHANTS TO ROGER SHERMAN.

New York July 12th 1769

Gentlemen

We wrote you in April last inclosing a Copy of the Agreement subscribed by the Merchants and Traders of this City relative to the non Importation of Goods from Great Britain untill the Act of Parliament imposing Dutys on Paper, Glass, &ca should be repealed; and recommending a similar Agreement to the Imitation of the merchants and Traders with you, to which we have not yet received any Answer; but have transiently heard that they had been convened, and that a Committee was appointed, the more effectually to carry their Engagment into Execution; which, if the Case, will no Doubt be very soon confirmed by Letter from them. Some late occurrences however, render in the mean Time a second Letter to you necessary.

On Monday Evening last Information was received that a Shallop laden with Merchandize out of a Vessel lately arrived at New Haven from Liverpool was coming to this Place; on which, the Committee of Inspection into the Importation of Goods were convened and they found that Capt Joseph Bradley was arrived here with a Parcel of Earthen ware, wrought Iron &ca all belonging and consigned to Persons in this City, except fifteen Crates of Earthen ware the Property of Capt Mansfield owner of the Vessel arrived as aforesaid.

And we have the Pleasure to acquaint you, that although the Circumstances attending the said Goods belong-

ing to Persons here, are of such a Nature as would in a great Measure, if not intirely, justify their Reception; yet, as they might be subject to Misrepresentation in the other Colonies, the Owners of them, jealous of the Reputation of this Colony, signed an Order to Capt Bradley with the utmost Chearfullness to carry the said Goods back again to New Haven, there to be stored untill the Act aforesaid is repealed. And as it is also conformable to the Letter of the second Article of our Agreement "Not to import, or purchase any kind of Goods imported from Great Britain, direct, or by way of any of the Colonies which should be ship'd from Great Britain after the first of Novr last." So must it reflect much higher Honor on a Colony to refuse receiving any such Goods, than to avail itself of any Circumstances however favourable to countenance the Reception of them. Since, if they were admitted from one Place, they must be from another, which would by Degrees realize what too many of our Enemies wish to see, and would be proud of reproaching us with. That the Colony of New York was become the common Receptacle of prohibited Goods from all Parts of the Continent.

We have heard already that one McCracken, an Acquaintance, and possibly of like Principles with a certain Alexander Robertson of this Place whom you may have seen lately advertised in all our public Papers for some of his noble Feats; has propagated a Report highly injurious to the Inhabitants of this City. That he, the said McCracken, had bought Barrels of the Goods pretended to be stored here. we do assure you it is a most notorious Falshood. The People here have too much Spirit to suffer such an Imposition, if attempted, which we believe none amongst us (except the aforesaid Alexander Robertson) would be base enough to do; and we hope those with you, will shew so much just Resentment as to bring the Author (if guilty) of so scandalous a Report to condign Punishment. It being absolutely necessary to make Examples of such Imposters to deter others from the like Practises, calculated only to raise Jealousies and Distrusts amongst the Colonies, and

eventually to defeat the Agreement entered into for the Preservation of their common and most essential Rights.

And tho' we are perswaded that the Reputation of the Merchants here, is above the Calumny, or Malice of a despicable Individual, we think it right to advertise you of what has been said of him here, that he may act, and be treated accordingly.

We remain with great Respect,

Gentlemen, Your Most Hble Servants

ISAAC LOW
ISAAC SEA[RS]
SAML VERPLANCK
THOS FRANKLIN JUNR

To ROGER SHAREMAN Esqr & others of the Committee of Merchants in Newhaven.

[Superscribed] To ROGER SHAREMAN Esqr in New-Haven

[Indorsed] Letter from the Committee of Merchs New York 1769

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

HARTFORD 26th July 1769

Sir

Since your Favours of the 5th & 13th of Octobr last, I have receiv'd nothing from you. In them you inform'd of the Receipt and Acceptance of Bills to the Amount of £525 0 0. In mine of the 15th of Febry last I inclosed three Bills in Vallue £281 2 3 on the 9th of June I sent the Second Sett of these Bills in Case of the Failure of the first. And on the 16th of June I forwarded, one Bill of £100 0 0 (the Second of which I now inclose) and a Draft by Mis Newberry, which I hope have, or will come safe to hand. I now inclose Six Bills West India Drafts payiable in Holland in Vallue £184 15s 0 I am inform'd they are current in Great Britain, and trust they will well answer the End propos'd. Other Bills are order'd to be purchas'd, and I am advised by the Gentlemen employ'd to procure them, that they have a prospect of obtaining them

in a short Time. I Desire you would be so kind, as to inform me whether, the Bills heretofore mentioned have been receiv'd, and accepted.

Mr Mason I am inform'd saild from Newport Rhode Island, for Great Britain: upon his arrival, I cant but hope, the long delayed Cause will be issued.

I am with Esteem
Sr, your most Obedt
& most Humble Servt
WM PITKIN

To Richard Jackson Esqr London.
[Indorsed] To Mr Jackson 26 July 1769

LIST OF SURVEYORS GENERAL OFFICERS.

A List of Officers Created by the Surveyors General in the Northern District*

	Officers Names	when appointd
Connecticut New London		
New Haven	Nathl Hubbard	4 Janry 1762
	Benja Sanford, Thos Davis	25 March 1764

Where Stationed	Former Salaries and other allowances	When confirmed
Preventive Officer Stamford	£25 pr Ann	23 March 1769
Waiters at New haven	2/6 pr day when on Duty	———

Present Salaries without any other allowance
£25 pr Ann
are occasionaly employed as formerly
Mr Temple's District

*This list was enclosed in a letter from the Commissioners of Customs at Boston to the Commissioners in London, dated July 27, 1769.

NEW YORK MERCHANTS TO NEW HAVEN MERCHANTS.

New York July 27th 1769

Gentlemen

We have received your Favors of 20th & 24th Inst. The former inclosing a Copy of the Agreement subscribed by your Merchants & Traders relative to the non Importation of Goods; which we think is unexceptionable in every Particular except the Clause, excepting from the said Agreement, "such other Articles as a Majority of the Subscribers may hereafter judge and declare in writing under their Hands to be necessary."

We have recollected since signing our Agreement sundry Articles as necessary to be imported, as some of those already excepted from it, but we think it better to brave every Necessity, than by confessing our weakness, to give the least Room to our Adversaries to flater themselves with Hopes of our rescinding in the most minute Particulars.

It is possible that McCracken may have bought Ribbands and a few other Trifles of some Person here in the Manner he relates, but untill he names the Man, so injurious a Report ought not to meet with the least Credit.

How cruel and mortifying is it on the Merchants of this City to see him, and others in the neighbouring Colonies taking all Advantages of importing Goods, under the inglorious Pretence of not having signed the non Importation Agreement sooner, which it was their own Faults not to have done; and as they knew such a Measure was in Agitation, and had actually taken Place both in this City and Boston, it was totally inexcusable in them to attempt sending for Goods in opposition to it, and we think they ought therefore to share the same Fate with other Goods brought here contrary to the said agreement.

We are obliged to you for the Advices, & your last Favor of 24th Inst relative to the Goods of Kane, and there is so strict a Look Out kept to prevent any Infraction of our Agreement, that we think it scarce possible for them to be brought here without being discovered,—we have not yet

been able to learn what is become of him or his Goods, but should either, come within the Limits of our Jurisdiction, proper Satisfaction will be demanded.

We remain with great Respect, Gentlemen

Your Most Hble Servants

SAM^{L} VERPLANCK
ISAAC LOW
ISAAC SEARS
THO^{S} FRANKLIN JUN^{R}

To Mess^{rs} ROGER SHERMAN TIM^{O} JONES JOHN HUBBARD THOMAS HOWELL & other Merchants and Traders at New Haven

[Superscribed] To ROGER SHERMAN Esq^{r} att New Haven

RICHARD REEVE TO THOMAS BRADSHAW.

Sir,

The Commissioners having just received an Account from their Officers at New London of a Riot which happened there on the 25th Inst, on which occasion the Boat in the Service of the Revenue was burnt and several of the Officers abused and insulted, particularly one Barnabas Willson a Tidesman belonging to that Port.

I am directed to transmit you a Copy of the Letter from the Port, & also a Copy of the Affidavit of said Willson, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

I am, Sir

Your most obedient Humble Serv^{t}

RICH^{D} REEVE

Customhouse BOSTON, 31st July 1769

THOMAS BRADSHAW Esq^{r}

[Indorsed] 31st July 1769. Commissioners of the Customs in North America. R. 9th Sep^{r} 1769.

BARNABAS WILLSON'S AFFIDAVIT.

Barnabas Willson of New London in the Colony of Connecticut, maketh Oath on the Holy Evangelists of

Almighty God that on the 25th Instant, a number of People (upon supposition that this Deponent had given Information against a Brig and Sloop seized) riotously and tumultuously assembled together at New London aforesaid, forcibly broke into the House of the Collector (as he is informed,) that they seized this Deponent Drag'd him thro' the Streets, strip'd him of his Cloaths, tied him to a sign Post (having cut off his Hair) and then gave him Thirty two severe lashes with a Whip.

After which they seized the Custom house Boat, and Drag'd her thro' the Streets with her Sails hoisted, and afterwards burnt her, as this Deponent is told on a Rising Ground near the Town, and further this Deponent saith not.

(signed) BARNABAS WILLSON

Suffok ss. BOSTON July 31st 1769. Sworn before me

(sign'd) JA MURRAY J. P.

[Indorsed] Copy of the Affidavit of Barnabas Willson Tidesman at New London Dated 31st July 1769.

NEW LONDON COLLECTOR AND COMPTROLLER TO COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS.

Copy of a Letter from the Collector & Comptroller of New London To The Commissioners of the Customs at Boston dated 27th July 1769.

This will acquaint your Honors that Barnabas Willson Tidesman complained to Us on the 24th Instant of his being threatned by several People here upon a Suspicion that he had given Information to Capt Reid of the Sloop Liberty relative to a Brigantine and Sloop which were carried into Newport of Rhode Island on this occasion We said what We then thought was proper to him & took such steps as inclined Us to hope and beleive that no mischief would happen to him, but We were mistaken if not deceived because in the twilight of the Evening of the 25th he was seized secured questioned and much abused by a number of Persons who carried him about and then detached a part of their main Body in quest of John Bloyd Tidesman and not

finding him at home they suspected he was in the House of Mr Collector Stewart where they repaired and demanded him but being denied and refused admittance by a Maid Servant from the Window of an upper Chamber they broke forcibly into the House search'd every where and found him on the House top, from which they led him through the Street near the Episcopal Church and there questioned him concerning the Information given to Captain Reid and chiefly about some Rum seized & afterwards stolen at East Haddam a year and a half ago then they dismised him without further Injury; immediately after which they striped or rather tore of Willson's Cloaths and cut of his hair and then severely whiped him which might be about Eleven OClock at night; during this treatment of Willson and Bloyd, a party were sent in quest of Mr Dare whom they apprehended & brought to the spot and questioned him concerning the late seizure and seemd disposed to Use him very roughly, but were prevented by the Interposition of some who either rescued or beg'd him off and then they dismised Willson, and immediately repaired to Mr Stewart's Wharf seized the Boat hauld her ashore hoisted her sails with all Appurtenances except the Iron Ballast which they threw on shore, then drag'd her in triumph to a rising ground near the Town where they burnt her, on the Morning of the 26th very early We learn that poor Willson set out on foot for Boston who can inform your Honors more exactly of this Mob and of what has been said and done to him. And of this man as an Officer in his station we in justice to him ought to assure your Honors that he appeared to Us to behave properly in every respect. Mr Dare in consequence of what has hapened to him and of some particular threatnings has thought it best to retire for the present and altho' We could not advise him to take this step, We cannot and do not now blame him for it for indeed the present time is of a very unfavorable aspect here and it is not possible for Us to say what will next happen, however We shall endeavour to act consistently with our Duty according to the best measure of our Knowledge.

We are with very great Respect Honorable Gentlemen,
Your most Obedient and Most Humble Servants
JOHN MILLER D Collr
THOMAS MOFFATT Compr

P. S. By the latest and best entelligence which we may depend upon, We expect Mr Dare will return here this day and We have some assurance that he will not be insulted.

[Indorsed] Copy of a Letter from the Dy Collr & Comptroller of New London to the Commissioners of the Customs at Boston dated 27th July 1769.

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson wrote from London "the latter end of July", 1769, to Governor William Pitkin, as is stated in Johnson's letter of September 18. The letter evidently related to the pelitical conditions in England and their bearing upon American affairs.]

COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS FOR AMERICA TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Sir

It having been represented to us that a great Number of People, unlawfully assembled together in the Evening of the 19th Ulto at Newport in the Colony of Rhode Island destroyed the Sloop Liberty with her Appurtenances, a Vessell employed in the Service of the Revenue, rescued the Sloop Sally with her Cargo of Prohibited Goods out of the hands of our Officers there, who had the same under Seizure, & obstructed them in the legal Exercise of their Duty, & it appearing to us that Nathll Shaw Owner of the Brig Thames belonging to the Port of New London, & Jos: Packwood Master thereof, who we understand are Inhabitants of Connecticut, were principal Abettors in these Illegal & outragious proceedings; We have directed our Officers at New London to prosecute them. Representations having also been made to us of the Riotous behaviour of some Peo-

ple at New London, in burning the Collectors Boat, employed in the Service of the Customs, & Assaulting one of the Officers there, We have directed the Collector & Comptroller to lay a full State of this Matter before your Honour. We now are to desire that your Honour will take such Measures, as You may think proper, as well for discovering the Persons concerned in this Outrage, & bringᵍ of them to condign Punishment, as for preventing the like in future: & also that You will afford Our Officers your Assistance, Support & Protection in the Execution of their Duty & bringᵍ the Offenders to Justice.

We are Sir

Your Honours most Obedient

Humble Servants,

HENRY HULTON

J. TEMPLE

CHᴬ PAXTON

Custom House Boston 7th Augst 1769. J: C:

The Honble Wᴹ Pitkin Esqr Governor &ca &ca of Connecticut. Copy

JAMES HELME TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

South Kingston Aug. 7th 1769

Sir

Judge Russell did me the Honor to transmitt me your Letter to him of the 14th June last respecting Writs of Assistants to the Custom House Officers. As I was then but just nominated in the Court, had not seen Mr De Greys State of the Case, nor had any Oppertunity of conversing with any One of my Brethren; I did not return your Honor an Answer. and indeed Sir I remain just in the same Situation, without having had an Oppertunity of Information in any One Point; so that it is impossible for me to say what will be the Determination of the Court, especially as there are several new Members with whom I never conversed on the Subject. The Case heretofore in the year 1767 was moved in our Court, who then put of the Determination

making the same Excuse as you did in Connecticut: had it been then determined I am very sure it would have passed in the Negative.

Should it be found on Examination that the Writ ought to be granted, I think there can't be much in the Objection that it may be misused & the Offenders escape with Impunity; to suppose a Court authorized to grant a Writ, & not have Power to punish the abuse of it, to me appears a Solecism.

Mr Trumbull who did me the Favor of yours from Mr Russell told me that Colo Dyer was bound on a Journey to the Westward, & that he intended to take the opinion of the Judges there; As I think with you "that Union of Sentiment & Practice of the Court of each Colony is needful on this Occasion" I beg the Favor of you to let me know the Opinion of the Judges in the western Colonies, as well as those of your Court. Our next Term will be at Newport the first Monday in September.

I am with great Respect,

Sir, your most hble & obedient Servant

JA HELME

To Honble Jonathan Trumbull Esq.

[Superscribed] To The Honble Jonathan Trumbull Esqr Lebanon

[Indorsed] Ja Helme Esq Letter Concerning Writts of Assistants Augt 7th 1769

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

Hartford 10th August 1769.

Sr

In my last of 26th of July I inclosed Six Bills of Exchange West India Drafts payiable in Holland in Vallue £184 15 0. The Second Sett of which I now send. I have also inclosed two other Bills first Sett, £210 0 0 and shall forward others, as soon as they can be procured. I have not Receiv'd any Information from you, whether the Bills sent since Febry last, have been Receiv'd and hon-

our'd; you will be so kind as to Favour me, with an Account of them the first Oppertunity.

I am with Esteem
Sr, your Most Obednt
& most Humble Servnt
WM PITKIN

To Richard Jackson Esqr &c London
[Indorsed] To Richard Jackson Esq 10th August 1769

NEW LONDON COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

Honrd Sir

It having been represented to us, by the Honorable Comissioners of his Majesty's Customs, that a Number of People, unlawfully Assembled together in the Night of the 19th Ulto at Newport in the Colony of Rhode Island & destroyed the Sloop Liberty with her appurtenances, a Vessell employed in the Service of the Revenue. That they also rescued the Sloop Sally with her Cargo of Prohibited Goods, out of the Hands of the Officers there, who had the same under Seisure, & obstructed them in the Legal Exercise of their Duty; & that it appeared that Nathll Shaw Junr the Owner of the Brigantine Thames & Jos: Packwood Master thereof, both of New London were principal Abettors in these Illegal Proceedings. Therefore that proper Steps may be taken for their imediate Prosecution we are directed by the Honble Comissioners to lay this State before Your Honor, And Shew upon what Grounds the Sd Nathll Shaw & Jos: Packwood appear to be the principal Abettors in the above unhappy Transaction we herewith transmit to Your Honor a Copy of the Deposition of William Reid, that was Comander of the Sd Sloop Liberty

Mr Thomas Dare the Tide Surveyor of this Port is the Bearer of this Letter, & we have given him Orders to follow such Directions as Your Honor may be pleased to give him.

A Letter from the Comissioners to Your Honor was forwarded in the Mail by Mr Miller, before we had Read

our own, so that Your Honor will not receive it so soon as this; but we apprehend it only contains a Request for Your Honors Assistance & Support to us in this unfortunate Affair. As our Intention is ever to be guided by our Duty, we therefore trust, we shall both, not only in the present, but every other proper Occasion, as we are fully persuaded Your Honor is actuated by the same Principle. We could also represent to Your Honor the late very improper Behaviour of some People here, but as the Authority has interposed, & we have good Hopes that they are so sensible of it themselves as to have determined to be no more concerned in such doings.

We therefore omit troubling Your Honor with a Recital of it. We are, with the greatest Respect

Hon^{l} Sir Your most Obedient &
most Humble Serv^{ts}
DUNCAN STEWART Coll^{r}
THO^{S} MOFFAT Compt^{r}

Custom House New London 10th Augst 1769

P S: M^{r} Stewart thanks Your Honor for the care you was so kind as to take of his Letter which M^{r} Pomroy delivered to him Yesterday

To The Hon^{l} W^{M} Pitkin Esq^{r}

Copy

WILLIAM REID'S DEPOSITION.

On the Evening of the 19th Inst^{t} between Seven & Eight OClock, as I was going down the Long Wharfe to go on Board the Sloop Liberty, A Vessell then under my Comand, employed in the Service of the Revenue, I was, of a sudden, surrounded by a great Number of Men, some of which seized hold of me, upon asking what they wanted I was answered that I was a Damn'd Rascal, & that they had now caught me, I asked what I had done to any of them, they Answered that I had Seised many of their Vessels & by God I should now pay for all, the first Person that I knew in the Mob was Jos: Packwood, Master of the Brigan-

tine Thames, A Vessell which I had detained, he told me that some of my People, on Board of the Brigantine had used him very Ill, soon after Mr Nathl Shaw, Owner of Sd Brigantine Thames came up to me, & told me that I had not five minutes to Live, if I did not order Two Frenchmen on shore, which was then on Board of the Sloop Liberty, that I had taken out of the Sloop Sally, a Vessell then under Seisure, I told them I had no design in keeping those Frenchmen, & that they should come on Shore, provided the Mob would not hurt them, which they declared they would not, they were brought on shore, the Sd Packwood then mentioned to the Mob that John Carr second Mate of the Liberty had used him ill & had ordered the People on Board of the Liberty to prevent his going on Shore in the Brigantine's Boat, by Firing at him, & further said, that they did fire at him, & that he wanted them to be brought ashore to be delivered up to a Magistrate, the Mob, then with Threats of Violence, against my Life, Insisted, that I should Order Said Carr & John Freeman Pilot to be brought to Justice, I proposed to send them on Shore in the Morning, but was answer'd they must be Sent directly, or by God, I should never See the Morning, being in this Defenceless condition, I found myself under the Necessity of Complying with every thing they had a Mind, to propose, & accordingly ordered them on Shore, as Soon as they came the Sd Packwood again Addressed himself to the Mob & told them there was another Mate, that had fired at him, from on Board the Sloop Sally, The Mob ordered that he might be bro't also, which was accordingly done. I desired that they would let me go on Board of the Liberty, & that if there was any Person on Board, which had been guilty of any Indiscretion, I would deliver him up to Justice directly. They told me I should not go off the Wharf Alive nor any of my People, if I attempted to go, & insisted, that there was another Man on Board, which was concerned in firing at Capt Parkwood, & that they would have him on Shore likewise, they then Man'd two Boats, one of which put off to go on Board to search for

the aforesd Man, Mr Adams then Comanding Officer on Board of the Liberty, called to me, to know, if they should go on Board, as I thought to refuse, their going on Board, would perhaps exasperate the Mob to some Acts of Violence against the Sloop Liberty I told him to permit them which he did, the Boat then returned with Two of the Men, that went in her, & one of mine, the Mob then seemed more Satisfied, I asked them again to let me go on Board my Vessell, which they refused, But told me I might go to my Lodgings, about 11 oClock, I got clear of the Mob & went directly to Charles Dudley Esqr Collr of His Majesty's Customs for his Assistance who advised me to apply to the Govr which I did by Letter requesting His Honor to use his Authority in preventing the further Violence of the Mob, against the Sloop Liberty, & the two aforementioned Vessels. About four O'clock in the Morning, as soon as I thought the Mob was disposed, I went to go on Board of the Sloop Liberty, But found her cut from her Anchors, & laying on Shore, with her mast cut away by the Deck, her Sails & Rigging all Cut to pieces, Two of her Guns, all her Swivels & small Arms, hove over Board her Bottom Scuttled, her two Boats Burn'd, my Cabbin tore all to Pieces, & all my Furniture Cloaths Papers & every thing belonging to me Destroyed.

Signed William Reid

Newport in the Colony of Rhode Island &c. William Reid Esqr in his Own Person, came before me the Subscriber one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Town & County of New Port, & made Oath on the Holy Evangilists that the above & forewritten Deposition, by him signed is Truth & nothing but the Truth. Attest

Charles Bardin

July 21st 1769

Copy

Govr Pitkin gave a general *prudent* Answer to the foregoing Matters, that entirely satisfied the Officers of the Customs at New London.

WILLIAM PITKIN TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON.

HARTFORD 18th August 1769

Sir

Since I wrote to you in June last, I have Receiv'd your favours of the 26th of April and 25th of May; the Account you have given of Debates upon very interesting Points, and the Temper and Spirit with which many Affairs are conducted, 'tho Maloncholly in itself, and appears thretning to the Peace and Safety of the Nation, yet to be advised of them, is very agreable to me, and may add, to such Gentlemen as have had an Oppertunity to peruse them.

In yours of April, you mention the Delay of the Mohegan Cause, for Mr Masons Return. He embark'd sometime in June, and I trust this Occasion of a Further Delay will soon be remov'd. His Honour the Deputy Governr has shewn me the Letter, he wrote you on that Affair, from which I trust somethings adventageous to the Cause may be collected.

'Tho the Trial of this Case has been put off, far beyond the Expectation of many in the Colony, yet neither the Colony nor their Agent are to be faulted for this.

But at the same time I flatter myself, we shall have ample Amends for this Delay. Affairs so interesting and important have come under Consideration, that I am persuaded, the Sum expended for the Maintenance of Agent, an American born, who sees and feels the worth of Liberty, has tasted its Pleasures, and is an Expectant of enjoying its future happy Fruits, is well appropriated.

As to myself, I can assure you, I have not been in the least uneasy on Account of the Sum expended for your Support; often have I been desireous of your Consil and Assistance here, but for the sake of your Country I could not but Rejoice you was in Great Britain at so critical a Season. I have also the Pleasure to inform you, that so far as my personal Knowledge extends, and so far as I can learn by Enquiry there is no Uneasiness in the Minds of the People in General, on Account of your Support. Relying on your Fidelity, I trust your utmost Attention has

been to the Cause, and your utmost Endeavours have been, and still will be for your Countrys Good. I rejoice that your Life is spar'd, your Health restor'd, and that Tho the Ties of Nature and Friendship, and your own more private Concerns, strongly urge your Return, yet at the same Time, you feel a Willingness to deny yourself, for your Countrys good. your Intilegence helps us in our Counsels here, and your just Representations, I trust will be influential for the Alteration of Measures in Great Britain.

Animated by the generous Principle of a Love to your Native Land, you will still attend to whatever is worthy of Notice, and I cant but hope, you will see a happy Issue of the Cause you are especially charg'd with, and other Affairs so interesting to us all.

I am with Esteem
S^r^ your most Obed^nt^
& most Humb^le^ Servnt
WM PITKIN

P. S. several Bills of Exchange transmitted to M^r^ Jackson and others to be forwarded.

WM SAML JOHNSON Esqr &c London

WILLIAM PITKIN TO RICHARD JACKSON.

HARTFORD 7th Septmbr 1769

Sir

I Receiv'd your Favour of the 16th of May last, with the inclosed Accounts. In Janury 1768, you transmitted your Account of Sums Receiv'd & Expended down to that Day, and deducting one Hundred Pounds for your own Sallary which became due the May following, and Fifty Pounds M^r^ Lifes Sallary which became due in August then next following, and by your Account there was then left in your Hands £192 6 o in Favour of the Colony, thus far I understand our Accounts have been adjusted. In Janury 1768, I began my Account anew, while £192 6 o in the Colonys Favour was in your Hands.

But lest there should be any Mistake I now send a Copy of the Account you then transmitted, with this also I in-

close my own Account began in Jany 1768. That this Account is right I collect not only from my own Minutes but also from your Letter of March 1768, a Part of which I shall take the Liberty to transcribe, for the clearer Understanding of the Account. "You will find by the inclosed Account, that there Remains in my Hand no more than £192 6 o of the Colonys Money beside the Sum of £100 o o that will be due to myself in May, and £50 o o that will be due to Mr Life which I deduct because altho' the further Expence of the Mohegan Suit are uncertain, these two Articles will take place before any Remittance can come from Connecticut, and such Remittance will be necessary, were the Suit out of the Question as Mr Johnson will certainly have Occasion for more than the entire Ballance of £192 6 o before the Suit can be expected to be determined."

In my Account I have included the last Hundred Pounds Paid to Mr Johnson. Heretofore I have mentioned what Bills I have forwarded, more I expect to transmit in a short Time, which I hope will come seasonably to Hand, but at the same time would gratefully acknowledge your kind offer to supply in Case there should be a Necessaty for it.

In some of your former Letters, you mentioned fifty Pounds being then in your Hands, which really Belonged to the Government 'tho drawn for; be so kind as to acquaint me if paid, in Case it is not, when and by whom the Bill was drawn, and to whom payiable.

Mr Johnsons Economy I do not Question, and have Reason to believe he is attentive to what relates to the good of the Colony and America and I trust we shall reap some lasting Advantage by his being detain'd in Great Britain.

I am with Esteem & Regard

Sr your most Obednt

& most Humble Servnt

P. S. The Second Sett of Bills of £210 o o inclosed.

To Richard Jackson Esqr &c London

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON TO WILLIAM PITKIN.

[William Samuel Johnson writes a long letter from London on September 18, 1769, to Governor William Pitkin upon the political situation and outlook of the times both in England and as it relates to the American Colonies. Mention is made of the activities and statements of Mr. Mason in relation to the Mohegan Case. Printed in *Massachusetts Historical Society, 5 Collections*, IX. 357.]

JOHN ROGERS AND TIMOTHY WOLVERHOUSE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

We hear Lay before honours Serious Consideration the Great Sufferings Sustined of late by the Sect Called Rogereens. Whose Sufferings are great for the Testimony they have born to the truth. It is well known that the authority in this town have not proceeded against us according to their own laws. But have Sundry times Delivered us into the hands of wicked Mobbs Whereby we have been Cruelly and Samfully abused. we have also been often Driven to prison 20 or more in a day, wither we Spoak at the meeting house or not and Each time Doubled till at last we have been Committed for near four months together and then to be Set at Liberty in the Evening without a trial. In the time of these Imprisonments Justice Coit was much Addicted to pushing Striking and kicking both men & women as he was driving them to prison which gave great Occation to others to do the like. Soon after this Doubling of time was over, Joshua Bolles and Amos Colver was proceeded against for bringing a Bedsteed to their friends in prison on the first Day of the week. And were Committed to prison by Justice Coit were they Continued for Some months. Till the County Court Set them at Liberty. But after they were Set at liberty by the Court, Justice Coit gave out Executions and took a yoak of oxen from Bolles and a Cow from Colver for the Same thing that he had Confined them so long in prison for (viz) bringing the bedsteed &c. Now wither Justice Coit by fighting on his Sab-

bath his Doubling the time for Breach of Sabbath and his taking Bolles Oxen and Colver Cow is according to law or not we leave it to the Judgment of this honourable Court, Rom. 2. 21 thou that preachest a man Should not Steal dost thou Steal. Justice Coit Says we Disturb their worship But Christ Said the Samaritans worshipt they knew not what. But that the true worshippers worship the father in Spirit and in truth and this Sprit of truth will never be Disturbed. Christ had a quiet Spirit on the Cross and the Martyrs in the flames. But the people Used to be Disturbed at paul as much as our Neibours are at us we read Acts 19 that all the City of Ephesus was in an uproar because paul Said that them were no gods that were made with mens hands. But when the town Cleark had Enquired into the matter he found it was Demetrus that made the Disturbance and not paul. And Just So it offen happens with us we Speak a few words Soberly to the people about their Souls and Justice Coit will rise up and make Such a tumult that the whole Congregation will be Disturbed. And we Do verily beleive that Justice Coit has made more Disturbance to the Congregation he belongs to within 3 or 4 year past, Than we Should have made in 40 years if we had been let alone. Upon the 14th of April Last Some of our people was Coming to the meeting house at newlondon, But were Stoped and keept by a Constable and others But as Soon as the meeting was over our keepers told us we might go & preach to the people as much as we pleased but as soon as we came among the people Justice Coit ordered us to prison and five Days after we were brought before him & three of us Cruelly whipt by Justice Coits order, the rest were Set at liberty Justice Coit telling them the Court had Considered their Case and found them not Guilty. Notwithstanding he laid Cost upon them after he had keept them five Days in prison. And for that Cost he has Since taken 4 Cow 1 mair and other Estate to the value of Six or Seven pounds. The mair got away from them and come home. She is not yet Sold.

The Next Day after these three men were whipt Some of our people went and reasoned the Case with Justice Coit and told him that our Coming among them was to please God and keep a good Conscience and that he ought to let us Speak what was on our minds to the people. than Justice Coit Said we might Speak as much as we pleased to the people at any time Except in the time of Service also that we might wear our hats and that if one hat would not Satisfy us we might wear two. The Next Day we were Early at the meeting and one of our friends Stood up and Speak to the people and Justice Coit ordered him to prison. Than another Stood up and Exhorted the people to repentance. And Justice Coit in a Special manner, than the Justice Sent him to prison this was Some Considerable time before the Minister came. These two men were afterwards brought to trial and fined 40/ Each as being Guilty of the Breach of that Law of Blowing horns &c they told Justice Coit they did not look upon themselves to be guilty of the breach of that Law for they only Spoak a few words Soberly to put the people in mind of their Souls he replied that he had no other Law to try them by. So he Sent them to prison, where they Still remain. Now the Same Day after these two men Spoak in the meeting house Several of our people Spoak in the time of Service and warned the people putting them in mind of their Cruelty and hard heartedness and that God would not hear their prayers So long as they persecuted his people But Justice Coit ordered them to prison where they Still remain. Now from the time that our friends was first Committed to prison it has Continually been Sounded in their Ears In the time of their Service that God would not Except them nor hear their prayers So long as they lived in Such pride and persecuted the Righteous and Justice Coit has been Carefull to Commit Such to prison as have warned them to repentance till the Number now in prison is 25 of which 23 are heads of Families. There was of late two of our friends that went together and Spoak in the meeting house in the time of Service one was a Stranger an old man and very Infirm in body. And

they were proceed against by Justice Coit. The poor old man he Sentanced to be whipt 13 Stripes which was Executed in a Cruel manner and he Committed to prison. But the Justice told the other man in the Court that he would not whip him for he had Some Estate that he Could get hold off. So he fined him by his 40/ Law and let him go. There was lately a good Cart new wheels a Clevy and pin also a yoak bows Iron Staple & Ring taken from Joseph Bolles who is now in prison this Cart was brought to the post to be sold: we hear the Officer that brought it to the post took all to himself at 13/. Our families are broaken up our little Destressed Children Crying at home Distitute of parents months together. Our goods are Spoilled. Some of these prisoners are poor and had no other way to Support themselves and families when at Liberty but by their hand labour, yet the Authority will not allow them any Support, thought it has been requested of them a thing not practised to the worst of murderers. Among these prisoners there is two Aged people one in his 78th year. he has had the Numb palsy for many years, he is in a very poor State of health his wife in the 73d year of her age and very feeble they have Suffered greatly by lying hard and for want of Comfortable things which is hard to be got by poor people in their Condition. There is also a woman in prison very near her time and in a weakly Condition. She is greatly overcome by the hardships She has meet with, & it is to be feared how it will go with her, there is also Several other women much overcome by this hard Imprissonment and in a very weakly way. Moreover Some of these prisoners in the heat of Summer being Shut up in a lower back room of the prison were almost Smothered to Death So that they had no Stomachs to Eat for Some Days together and if they Lay down they Could not get breath but were obliged to Stand with their faces at a little window or hole to get air in this place they were keept a long time there is So many of us in prison and have been So Closely Confined that none but God and the Sufferers knows the hardships we have Endured in this Imprison-

ment. But God has Shead his Love abroad in our hearts and given us a full Satisfaction that he is pleased with our Testimony & Excepted our offering So we Commit our Case to him y^t^ Judgeth Righteously and will reward Every Man according to his Works.

JOHN ROGERS
TIMOTHY WOLVERHOUSE
In behalf of the rest
from your friends in NEWLONDON prison Sep^t^ 28, 1769

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Gentlemen of the Council & Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

It hath Pleased Almighty God, the Sovereign Disposer of all Events; to remove by Death The Hon^ble^ William Pitkin Esq^r^ our Governor. I take Liberty at this Time, To Testify my Esteem & Regard for the Memory of the Deceased. His Wisdom, Prudence & Integrity, have been displayed, in the Various Exalted Stations, he has long been employed in, among us. His Civil & Religious Character, in Private as well as Public Life, was truly Amiable, & Indeed the whole Tenor of his Life has been such as must Render, His Memory precious, & His death a real Loss, to His Country, His Family & His Friends. I Heartily Condole with You, on this Mournfull Occasion, & Pray we may all make a wise Improvement of this dispensation of Providence. This Event happened, so near the Usual Meeting of the General Assembly of the Colony at this place; that a Special Call thereof, on this Occasion, became unnecessary. I now take this Earliest opportunity, to recomend to this Hon^ble^ Assembly to proceed to a New Election of a Governor, in this Room & Place, according to Your Discretions, in pursuance of the Authority & Direction given by the Royal Charter.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

This being the Season, We Usually Convene for Dispatch of Public Business; I have Thot fit, with the Advice

of the Council, in the Accustomed Manner to direct the Letters, His Honor had Received, Since the sessions of this Assembly in May last, to be read & laid before You, That no Time may be Lost.

& Shall proceed in Business according to Such matters, You shall think proper to Transact, until you see fit to fill the Chief Seat of Government again.*

ASHBEL PITKIN TO WILLIAM PITKIN.†

HARTFORD 16th Octobr 1769.

Loving Brother

Inclosed herewith I send you two Letters the one sent to Mr Johnson the other to Mr Jackson; they were laid aside after they were Copied, and you will find they were not signed, the Reason of which was the Multiplicity of Business, my Father had to transact at the Time the Letters were clos'd to be forwarded; the Copies were laid by, and he concluded, he would take a more Leisure Season. I 'thot it would be well to let the Gentlemen of the Council at lest, if not the whole Assembly have a Sight of them, that they should have no Reason to imagine my Father was unattentive to the Publick Affairs of the Government even in his last Days upon Earth. But I leave them to your Discretion. The Account inclosed, is likewise what he sent to Mr Jackson 7th Septembr last. The Reason of his being so particular, in this Account, and of his reciting a Part of Mr Jacksons Letter in his own, was that my Fathers Account and Mr Jacksons did not exactly Tally. Mr Jacksons makes the Ballance in Favour of the Colony but £120 o o. My Father by his Account makes the Ballance of £165 o o in the Colonys Favour. I 'thot it might be helpful in adjusting these Accounts to have these papers to View, and

*This last paragraph, which alone is in Trumbull's handwriting, is apparently intended to form a part of the preceding sentence.

Governor Pitkin died October 1, 1769, and the Assembly convened at New Haven on October 12.

†This letter was undoubtedly written to William, the eldest son of the late Governor William Pitkin, who was at this time a member of the Upper House of the General Assembly.

have some little Explanation of them. The Account was adjusted to Janury 1768 and Mr Jackson had then in his Hand £192 6 0 after he had taken out his own and Mr Lifes Salary of ye year 1768 then my Father began his account anew, but Mr Jackson has gone far back, and has brought forward, Accounts that have heretofore been settled. But in Case, there should be a Disposition to go further back, and review the Accounts, I conclude the Papers, may all be found.

yesterday your Family in Health. Saturday last was advis'd of the Choice the Assembly made of a person to preside in the Government, and hope remaining Affairs will Issue well.

I am your affectionate Brother

ASHBEL PITKIN

APPENDIX.

CONNECTICUT'S ADDRESS TO THE KING.*

To the Kings Most Excellent Majestie

The Humble Adress of your Majesties English Colony of Connecticutt In New England

We your Majesties Loyall and Dutyfull subjects beg leave to Inform your Majestie that it is Now about 92 years since wee first began the setlement of this Colony at our first Arivall here we found the Country a Rough Incultivated wilderness Inhabited by Barberous Indians and the River newly Infested by the Dutch Wee then purchased a Great part of the Lands of the Indians and removed the Dutch from the River and all this at our only Expence and Endeavor through the Good hand of Divine Providence upon us

The next year after our begining the Pequotts Raised a Cruell War upon us which alarmed all New England but forasmuch as the Pequots Dwellt in this Colony the burden of that war was Mainly ours and very heavie upon us and by our subduing that potent Nation wee Conquered another Great part of the Lands within the Colony

May it please your Majestie it has been our Constant Custome from the begining to Divide Intestate Estates among all y^e^ Children of the Deceased in Equall parts saving to y^e^ Eldest son a double portion this Custome is Near the Custome of Gavelkind in the County of Kent but more favorable to the Eldest son in allowing him a double part and in that the same with the Law of God

Soon after the Restouration of the Royall famely we obtained of King Charles the second his Gracious Charter to this Colony whereing Amongst other Libertys there is Granted to us a power to Make all Manner of wholesom and Reasonable Laws not Contrary to the Laws of England as

*At a special session of the General Assembly held in September 1727, a committee appointed by both Houses of the Assembly reported as follows: "That the Address (by them drawn up) to his Majesty, and an answer to the letter sent by the Lords of Trade and Plantations, as also an answer to the several articles alledged against the Colony by Mr. Winthrop in his complaint to his late Majesty, all which, with the necessary copies, we think it proper that the Governour be desired to transmit to our Agent, with such alterations as he shall think necessary, by the first opportunity."

well for the setleing the form of Government as for Naming and stileing all sorts of officers and for Directing Ruleing and Disposeing all other Matters and things whereby the Inhabitants might be Religiously peaceably and Civilly Governed and soon after our obtaining our Charter wee enacted this our Antient Custome into a Law Intituld An Act for the setlement of Intestate Estates and this has Continued to be Law and Custome Amongst us ever since

yet nevertheless may it please your Most Excellent Majestie John Winthrop Esq^{r} of New London in a Case between himself and Thomas Lechmere Esq^{r} and Ann his wife sister to y^{e} sd Winthrop (in which Case this your Majesties Gov^{t} never had the Least Interest Nor Concern) in an appeal before your Majestie in Councell and as wee humbly Conceive very much for want of our being there to Inform your Majestie of the true state of this your people and what is Most Reasonable and Necessary for the benefitt of your subjects here whome your Majestie is allways Most Tender of The sd John Winthrop Esq^{r} obtained a Decree for the Makeing Null and void the sd Law

Hereupon it is may it please your Most Excellent Majestie that wee beg the favor to be heard whilst we Lay before you the true state of us your people that so your Majestie May Consider if it be not best for your Majesties Enterest and the Good of your people here that this Law and Custome be allowed to us as it is to all other your Majesties Coloneys in New England

Such Laws and Customs as will most encrease your people here and encour our Husbandry will best promote your Majesties Interest for by use your Dominions here will be enlarged and rendered more Defencible & the Trade from Great Britain advanced and herein also Consists the Good of us your people who have often been Distrest by a french and Indian enemy and no way to suport or Defend ourselves but by our Husbandry

That this Law and Custome is Necessary to promote these ends the experience of Almost an 100 years has Convinced us And we humbly Conceive your Majestie will be

Convinced of it when you Consider the Circumstances of this New Countrey and our way of Living in it. In Great Britain the Landlords rents suport his famely and also Allow him a suficency to endow his Daughters but here the Rents of Land are so small that there is scarce a man in the Colony that out of the rents of his farm Can endow his Daughters with portions or Indeed Comfortably suport his own famely the unsubdued Lands are of little or no value and these people men that Go upon New farmes (as Many are Continually Doing) have No way to suport themselves but by subdueing the Lands which Costs much time and Labour and Cant be done but by the Joint endeavor of the whole famely in which the younger children are as serviceable as any and Labour with Chearfullness Knowing that if they out live their Ancestor they shall share in the benefitt of their Labour but if this expectation be once Cutt off and they Know they shall then be stript of all your Majestie will easily perceive the Case will be altered and they will rather sett themselves to handicraft then spend their Labour and strength for that which will not profitt Them and that this will Greatly hinder the encrease and husbandry of your people here

we pray your Majestie would further Consider that we have been Naturallized to this Law and Custome from the very begining the foundation of our particular Estates are Laid in it we all universally preferr it it is allowed to all other your Majesties Colonys in New England and if the Custome of Decents in severall of the Countys in England which have Nothing to Justify them but their Antiquity are held Inviolable notwithstanding they Difer from the Course of the Common Law how much more Reasonable is it that this Law and Custome should be allowed us with whome it has been as Antent as we have been a people the Circumstances of the people and Countrey make it necessary for us our Charter as we humbly Conceive Confirming it as a Law to us and your Majesties Interest best promoted by it

we therefore present our humble petition to your Majestie to obtain your Gracious allowance of this Law to us as it hath been hitherto

May God Long preserve your Majestie a Terror to all your Enemys and a Nurseing father to all your Leige people may he more and more Give you a Name among the Great men of the Earth and Grant to us that we may Never want a Man of your house to Reign over us

DECREES OF COURT OF COMMISSIONERS.

At a Court of Commiss^{rs} Held in New London in the County of New London in the Colony of Connecticut by Speciall Act of Assembly of the Colony afors^{sd} Held at New Haven Oct^{r} 14th 1736 to hear and determine all matters in dispute between the members of the Late New London Society April 5th Day 1737

Whereupon the Complainants proceeded to Exhibit Sundry Articles as matters of Greivance Relateing to the premisses which is in the words following viz^{t}

To The Hon^{rble} Court of Commiss^{rs} Assembled at New London on the first Tuesday of Aprill 1737 to hear and determine upon all matters in difference between the Members of the Late New london Society &c Pursuant to the Act of the Generall Assembly in October Last in Such Case made and provided

John Curtiss Daniel Coit and the Rest of the Complainants Represent To Your Hon^{rs} the following matters as Speisall matters of difference and greivance among the members of s^{d} Society of which we pray a hearing and Your Hon^{rs} determination thereon

1^{t} That John Bissill and the Rest of the Complainants and Solomon Coit and the Rest of the Complainees were owners of the Joynt Stock of Said Society the Result whereof consisted in Certaine Estate the Articles of which were Specifyed by Auditors appointed by Said Society in their Convention at Colchester June 3^{d} Tuesday 1733 the Cost of which Articles Said by S^{d} Auditors to Amount To

the Sum of £14964 — 6¼ Errors in Said Inventory Excepted by means whereof Costs payments of Interest to the Goverment and Inevitable Losses that have Incur'd and Since happened in dimunition of Stock the Remains upon a True Estimate of the Same is Reduced unto £4381 8 1 as pr An Invoice of the Same Ready to be produced Appears and the Complainants pray Your Honrs to Prescribe a Rule for the apportioning Said Remainder among the aforsaid owners thereof.

2dly That the Joynt Stock of sd Society consisted of Estate payd for by moneys borrowed of the Goverment on Interest for the Payment of which the Complainants Together with John Skinner of Colchister and Thomas Seymour of Hartford at the Instance of Said Society became bounden for the Interest of Thirteen Thousand and Six hundred Pounds To be paid Annually untill the Year 1741 for which we have Recd no Consideration but Justly ought of which we pray a hearing and determination Accordingly

3dly That the officers and Receivers of Said Society Stock and Estate And who are Accountable therefor be Called To bring in their Respective Accots further than Yet they have done if any Such To them have Appeared whereby the Amount of said Estate may Appear to the End a Just and Equitable distribution of Said Common Stock or Estate of Said Society may be made among the proprietors thereof.

4thly Whereas Solomon Coit Richard Douglass decd and Daniel Coit Received a Deed in Trust of a Plat of Ground Lying on the beach in New london whereon a warehouse hath Since been Erected at the Cost of Sd Society wherefore we pray that said Solomon Coit Daniel Coit and the heirs & Executors of the said Richard Douglass decd be Called to Shew Reason why Should not Effectually convey the Same to the members of sd Society To Have and To Hold in Rateable Proportion or Else to Satisfye and pay a Sum to said members as aforsaid Equall to the Vallue thereof as Shall by Your Honrs be adjudged

5thly That there is about Eighteen Hundred Pounds due To The Goverment for Interest already Incur'd for which Judgments are Rendred and Executions Isued out Against the Complainants And the afforsaid Seymour and Skinner as they were bounden for the afforsaid Sum borrowed as aforsaid which Sum must be Imediately paid into the publick Treasury of this Colony and ought To be Satisfyed and paid by the members of Said Society in Rateable proportion which we pray may be adjudged Accordingly

Saveing and Reserving the privilege of a fuller Representation of what may be Needfull and Expedient we Submit the aforsd Matters to the Equitable determination of your Honrs. John Curtiss Daniel Coit John Patterson for themselves and the Rest of the Complainants.

At a Court of Commissioners Held in New London in the County of New London in the Colony of Connecticut by Speciall Act of Assembly of the Colony aforesd, Held at New Haven Octobr the 14th 1736, To Hear and determine all matters in dispute between the members of the late New London Society, Aprill 5th Day Ano: Dom: 1737

The Complainants being Called in Court Appeared.

The Complainees being Called Samuel Humphreys Jonathan Westover Moses Case Samuel Pettybone William Elmer Thomas Elmer Peter Mills Junr James Pease John Pease Nathll Pease John Pengilly Junr William Mather Nathll Man and Jonathan White Appeared by their Attourneys Roger Woolcot Junr and Elisha Paine and made pleas in the words following Vizt New London sst at a Commisss &c And now the Said Samuel Humphreys Jonathan Westover Moses Case Samuel Pettybone William Elmer Thomas Elmer Peter Mills Junr James Pease John Pease Nathll Pease John Pengilly Junr William Mather Nathall Man And Jonathan White by their Attourneys Elisha Paine and Roger Woolcot Junr Come to defends &c. And Say that this Court have not Jurisdiction of the Controvercies or matters Said To be in difference &c because they Say that the Act Granting Authority &c is Predicate on the sd John Curtiss and Daniell Coits Acting or Requesting in behalfe

of the Said Society &c, when at the Same Time they were not Imployed by Neither had they Authority from the Said Society or the Major part of them So to Request or Act and thereupon Say they are not holden to Subject thereto and thereof they pray Judgment Woolcot and Paine for the above Said Persons.

Which Pleas were Considered by the Court and Ruled To be Insufficient.

And John Allin Christopher Allin Ephraim Minor Aaron Fish Christopher Harte and Obaidiah Horsford Some of the Complainees Appeared by their Attourney Elisha Paine and made pleas in the following words viz^{t} New London ss^{t} Aprill 5th 1737 John Curtiss &c Complainants John Allin Christopher Allin Ephraim Minor Aaron Fish Christopher Harte Obadiah Hosford Complainees come here before the Commiss^{rs} &c and [ ] That this Court have not Jurisdiction of any Cause Relateing [ ] them, because they Say that the Act of Assembly Granting them power is Predicate on the Petition of John Curtiss Daniel Coit in behalfe of the Society called the New London Society when in truth they were not Impowered by Said Society as a body nor by the above Said persons in perticuler So that the Act Afforsaid is predicate on A meer Mistake without the Knowledge Privity or procurement of us above Said &c And thereupon Say they are not Holden To make plea before This Court and thereof pray Judgment Paine for the above [ ] persons

Which Pleas were Considered by the Court and Ruled To be Insufficient

Whereupon the Complainants proceeded To Exhibit Sundry Articles as Matters of Grievance Relateing To the premisses which is in the words following viz^{t}

To The Hon^{rble} Court of Commiss^{rs} Assembled as New London on the first Tuesday of Aprill 1737 To hear and Determine upon all matters in differance between the members of the late New London Society &c Pursuant to the Act of Assembly in Octob^{r} last in Such Case made and Provided

John Curtiss Daniell Coit and the Rest of the Complainants Represent To Your Hon^rs the following Matters as Speciall Matters of Difference and Greivance among the members of said Society of which we pray a hearing And Your Hon^rs Determination Thereon.

viz^t That John Bissell and The Rest of the Complainants and Solomon Coit and the Rest of the Complainees were owners of the Joynt Stock of Said Society the Result whereof consisted in Certaine Estate the Articles of which were Specified by Auditors appointed by Said Society in their Convention at Colchister June Third Tuesday 1733 the Cost of which Articles Said by Said Auditors To Amount £14964 6 4 Errors in s^d Inventory Excepted, by means whereof Cost payments of Interest to the Goverment and Inevitable Losses have Accreued and Since Happened in dimunition of said Stock the Remaines upon a True Estimate of the Same is Reduced To the Sum of £4381 8 1 as p^r An Invoice of the Same Ready to be produced appears and the Complainants pray Your Hon^rs To prescribe a Rule for the apportioning Said Remainder among the afors^d owners thereof

2^dly That the Joynt Stock of Said Society Consisted of Estate payed for by moneys borrowed of the Goverment on Interest for the payment of which the Complainants Together with John Skinner of Colchister and Thomas Saymore of Hartford at the Instance of Said Society became bound for the Interest of Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Pounds To be paid Anually untill the Year 1741 for which we have Rec^d no Consideration but Justly ought of which we pray a hearing and determination Accordingly

3^dly That the officers and Receivers of Said Society Stock and Estate And who are Accountable therefor be Called To bring in their Respective Accounts further than Yet hath been done, if Any Such of them have appeared whereby the Amount of s^d Estate may appear To the End, a Just and Equitable distribution of said Common Stock or Estate of Said Society may be made Among the proprietors thereof.

4thly Solomon Coit Richard Douglass decd and Daniel Coit Recd a Deed in Trust of a Tract of Land Lying on the beach in New London, whereon a warehouse hath Since been Erected, at the Cost of Said Society wherefore we pray that Said Solomon Coit Daniel Coit and the heirs And Execrs of the sd Richard Douglass decd be Called To Shew Reason why they Should not Effectually Convey the Same To the members of the Said Society To Have and To Hold in Rateable Proportion, or Else to Satisfye and pay a Sum To Said Members as aforesd Equall To the Vallue thereof as Shall by Your Honrs be adjudged

5thly. That there is about Eighteen Hundred Pounds Due To the Goverment for Interest already Incurred for which Judgments are Rendered, and Executions Isued out, against the Complainants and the aforsd Saymore and Skinner as they were bound for the aforsd Sum borrowed as aforsd which Sum must be Imediately paid into the publick Treasry of this Colony and ought To be Satisfyed and paid by the members of Said Society in Rateable proportion which we pray may be adjudged Accordingly Saveing and Reserving the privelege of a further Representation of what may be Needfull and Expedient we Submit the aforsd matters to the Equitable determination of Your Honrs John Curtiss Daniel Coit John Petterson for themselves and the Rest of the Complainants

The Complainants aforsd haveing made the aforsd Representation the Court thereupon Ordered

That whereas the Complainants have made a Representation To this Court of the Joynt Stock of Said Society praying this Court to make a Rule for the apportioning the sd Stock among the members of Said Society that the same may be made And published for Any person or persons therein Interested in their Own behalfe or as attourneys to others to Come into Court and To Object if ought they have why the Same Should not be apportioned According To Each ones Respective Interest therein Rateably, This Court now declares that Such person or persons that have To Object, now have Time allowed them untill the opening of this

Court in the afternoon on the Third Day of the Sessions of this Court to Consider whether they will Object Any thing Against the matters proposed in the Sd Articles, and those that do not then appear by themselves or their Attourneys to Object, shall thenceforth be fore closed and that Those that designe to Object are hereby directed To appear to be heard Accordingly as the Court Shall be Able To Attend thereto At the Second Opening of the Court on the Third day of the Sessions thereof came into Court Jonathan Westover Samuell Humphreys Samuel Pettybone 2d Mosses Case Nathll Case William Elmer Thomas Elmer Peter Mills Junr James Pease John Pease Nathll Pease Obadiah Horsford Christopher Allin John Allin Aaron Fish John Tompson Robert Pease Timothy Houghton John Pengilly Junr Samuel Rowley Nathll Man Jonathan White William Mather William Walsworth Thomas Fosdick and William Wilton Some of the aforsd members and pleaded in the words following and we the Subscribers Some of the Complainees and non Stipulaters comes and Sais that the Estate aforsd is not Reduced as the Complainants alledge &c Secondly that at the Time of Said Societys being prohibited of proceeding as afor Time they had done vizt at the Generall Assembly May 1733 there was then and at the Time of Said Society Meeting at Colchister June 1733 agreeable To the Direction of Said Assembly consisting above £15000 Vallue in Sundry Goods Merchandize Vessills &c and at Said Meeting at Colchister of Sd Society they Voted that Mr John Curtiss one of the Complainers was Together with others appointed a Commite To Take Care of Said Estate untill November then Next Comeing and then To Render Accot &c. and the Said Subscribers further Sais the Said Estate afterwards vizt before the Said November came into the Care and management of Said John Curtiss and Stiill is in the hands of the sd Curtiss unless he by Male administration hath Ridded himself thereof and therefore the Said Persons Say that in Law and Equity it belongs to them To have their whole Rateable proportion of the whole of the Said Stock or Estate that Existed at the Said November;

and the Said persons further Say that as to the Interest &c they pray further oppertunity to Answer And pray that this worshipfull Court would proceed To Determine what is a Rule of Equity for the parties in the above Article Respecting Said Stock, To which the Complainants Replyed in the words following we the Complainants here and alwais before in their Representation aforsd affirm that the Stock or Estate aforesaid is Reduced in manner and degree aforsd And that Said Estate did not in June 1733 Amount unto the Sum of £15000 in Goods merchandize &c Neither did the Stock and Estate afterwards Come into the hands of John Curtiss as the aforesaid Jonathan Westover and the Rest above Named have alledged Neither hath he by Male administration Ridded himselfe thereof and that the afornamed Ought not in Law or Equity To Receive their dividend of Such a Totall as they have alledged To Exist at November as aforesaid but to divide and bear Loss in Said Estate in Rateable proportion with the Rest of Said Society &c And thereof put themselves upon Tryall Fowler Lee and Curtiss for the Complainants

And the above Said Jonathan Westover &c pray the Truth of the above Question may be Inquired into Likewise Jonathan Westover &c.

And the parties were heard upon the aforsd Question Vizt whether the aforsaid persons that Claime Exemption from loss in the Joynt Stock of the Late New London Society in Manner and form as pleaded Ought To be Exempted upon which this Court have Considered and Thereupon Decree That the aforsaid persons ought not To Have their parts of the Said Joynt Estate as it Existed in November 1733 but ought to have their proportion or Rateable parts in Said Joynt Estate with the Rest of the late members of Said Society as it doth now Exist and that the Same be Accordingly divided

This Court haveing heard the pleas of the Complainants and Complainees with Respect to the Article of Complaint Respecting the Interest money due To the Goverment for which Judgments are Already Rendered and Execu-

tions for the Sum of Eighteen Hundred Twenty one pounds Eight Shillings money Isued thereon against the Complainants which Greivance by the Complainants prayed to be Redresed which this Court have considered and Thereupon Decree that the Complainees hereafter mentioned Shall pay their proportionable and Rateable part thereof According To their and Each of their Respective Interests in the Joynt Stock of the members of the Late New London Society viz^{t} This Court Do Decree that John Bissell John Curtiss &c The Complainants Shall Recover of Solomon Coit of New London one of the Complainees afors^{d} the Sum of Sixteen pounds five Shillings and five pence being Said Coits Rate [ ] Accordingly, Granted April 12th 1737

This Court Do Decree That John Bissill John Curtiss &c the Complainants Shall Recover of Jonathan Westover of Symsbury one of the Complainees afors^{d} the Sum of Thirty Two pounds Ten Shillings and Ten pence money being Said Westovers Rateable part of the Interest afors^{d} And that Execution Go forth Accordingly, Granted Aprill 12th 1737

This Court do further Decree That in Case it Should So Happen that Some of the Executions upon the Judgments and Decrees aforsaid be Returned with a Non Est Juventus that then it Shall be in the power of John Curtiss and the Rest of the Complainants To Take Such Sum and Sums out of the publick Stock of the Members of the late New london Society as Shall be Sufficient to Answer the Sum or Sums mentioned in Said Executions So Returned as afors^{d}

The aforegoing Are True Copies of Record
Examined

℔ John Richards Clerk

[Indorsed] Decrees
The Pleas to & Decrees of y^{e} Court of Comis^{rs} N^{o} 4 1737

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISTINGUISHING TRANSPORTS.*

The Massachusetts Transports, to Wear a Broad White Vane with a Blue ball at the Main Top Gallant Mast head.

*These instructions were probably issued on the occasion of the expedition against Cape Breton and the siege of Louisbourg in 1745.

The Connecticut, Rhode Island & New Hampshire Vessells to Wear a Broad Blue Vane with a White Ball at the Main Top Gallant Mast head.

The Transports from England, to Wear a Broad Red Vane at the Main Top Gallant Masthead.

These are for distinction.

[Indorsed by Jonathan Law] Instructions

ELISHA WILLIAMS TO TRUMBLE, PITKIN AND WILLIAMS.*

Westminster Welbeck Street, March 30th 1750

Dear Friends.

I Wrote ℔ Lt Whiting, 23d Ult., & ℔ Captn Sear of the Friendship bound for New Port, ye 28th Inst Something particularly of our affrs what measures had been taken, & pains used to obtain Justice for ye regiment, and that Notwth standing all, The Lords of the Treasury, had concluded on a Deduction of ye one half of ye last years pay both from officers & Men. I have not Time and Scarcely Patience to write a Duplicate yrof, least that should fail. You will yrfore Excuse me, for omitting that part of my Letter of ye 28th and allow me to proceed, as I yre did, with proposing to yr Consideration, whether it be best to apply to Parliament, by Petition at yir Next Session, for the remaining part of our Pay. If by the Strength of ye Dissenting Interest, or any way, Mr Pelham should be made Willing the Parliament should grant it on our Petition, it would doubtless be done. If you are of opinion to make farther Tryal. I then propose You should get Evidence from ye Officers of the Massachusetts Troops, what Number of them were Enlisted after ye Season for going to Canada that Summer was over.

That their commissions were antedated. That yir assembly put an End to yir billetting in Febry, what Numbers of their Men were at Home ye Next Summer, what Bribe

*This letter from Col. Elisha Williams was written to his business associates Col. Jonathan Trumble (later Gov. Jonathan Trumbull), Col. Joseph Pitkin and Capt. Elisha Williams, Jr., a son of the writer.

the officers were to give Mr S—y, and any thing else that will lay open his Villany, or Serve to show we have Equal right to full pay wth our Neighbrs and as Mr Shirley has possessed them wth a belief, that ye Colony never expected pay for billetting ye Soldrs. That yrfore yy contrived that resolve about the Furlow, purely to Save Charge to themselves, and the Officers joined in ye Roguery, to Ease ymselves of ye Trouble of keeping ye Soldrs together &c. I Query whether ye assembly can't do Something by Some Declaration or other, that will help us. If any Thing can be done as I suppose yr may, Surely they ought to do it. Since the assembly passed that resolve, whence all our Misery has come. You will see by ye Coppys, that come to you, what advantage they have taken against us, & what yrfore is to be guarded against, or if you think it would be better, For the Assembly to Petition ye Parliament for the remaining Pay due to ye regiment, as what will carry great Weight in it, and some principal Gentlemen that are disposed and can do it draw up a Declaration of Facts that will be pertinent. That or Companies were soon raised & compleated with Effective Men, and fitted for ye Expedition, were in actual Service till ye 4th of Novembr and yn necessitated in the Manner (So often said) by the Sufferance of ye Officers to repair Home. Yet under the care of yir Officers, & Sometimes called out to Exercise, as was ye Case of Some of ym (as I remember), & always ready fr his Majestys Service &c, and whatever you think further proper. I should have Some hope of Success. A little alteration here, The removal of Some one Man, wd Leave no room to doubt of it, and if not, ye Demonstrating ye Equity of our Cause and the great Partiality now used, will give ground to hope for a Good Issue. For my own Part I don't Want to Stay Here, but wish to be again in my beloved Country, (with my Family & Friend's) wch I prize more from what I know of ye Corruption & wickedness of this. but for the Sake of doing my Self & Friends Justice, & laying Some Foundation for Service to my Country, could deny my Self the Pleasure of Seeing them a while, If thought best. but how-

ever that be, Is it not best to procure those Things I have hinted at, & wtever You sha'l think proper, with all Convenient Dispatch. The officers of ye Massachusetts, I Suppose Will not be Unwilling to Speak what they know, now ye Grant is Made for ym and they no further Dependt on Mr S—y whom probably they will never See more. and what Shall be done by our Assembly had best be done at yir next Sessions, & all things dispatched to me as Soon as possible and if Dr avery, & other good Friends, Shall Judge it best as affrs shall then Stand: to make another Effort, (I E to apply to Parliant) then to do it, and return Home my Self (if God please) in the Fall, and leave it with Some Body to prosecute the affair, or Stay my Self & assist yrin as Shall be judged best. while I am upon this Subject, let me add, That notwthstanding what was Said in answer to Mr S—ys objections to ye pay demanded by ye Colony for arms & Cloathing, yet ye Lords have done as Mr Shirley would have ym and So what he did in ye Massachusetts with respect to those 2 articles is Made the Standard for our Colony. as you will See by the Coppy Mr Partridge will enclose to his Honr. Now as the Soldrs were Imposed upon by Him with respect to those 2 Articles, in Consequence of his cheating them, our honest Colony must be cheated too. This is too much to bear, or to Suffer, to pass, Unknown to ye World. I propose yrfore Evidence be obtained as to those Facts, abt ye Cloaths and arms, they were turned off withal. I don't Suppose one Gun fit for the Service, could be purchased at ye Price he allowed to ye Soldrs & I have heard great Complai't from Officers & Soldrs with respect to those 2 articles, and cant think but that Evidence may be got wch will lay open a Scene of Iniquity. I Saw a Number of Guns at Captn Partridge's, Where I believe they are now, wch were provided and Sent there for ye Soldrs, wch were fit for no Service & were refused. The more of yt Gentlemans V—y be laid open ye better (who has done So much Mischief to N England), it may be improved too our advantage in Case we petition the Parliament, and if the Scituation of affrs be Such, as that or Friends shall not think it worth while, (at

yt Season, The whole may be printed here and will Serve Various good Purposes. to obtain yir Evidences I know must Cost money, (₰haps You wd bring ym into Connecticut to take yir Evidence, in order to ys being authenticated by yr Secrtry rather than by Secretry Willard, Unless it can be done by a Notary Publick.) but is it not better for ye Colony to be at Some Expence in ys Case, Than to lye under the Imputation of Cheating as Now they do. when Mr S—y carried on that whole Affair by Cheating and has now made that Cheat a Standard for cheating honest people.

I have received Col. Trumble's Letter of Janry 6, & Col. Pitkins of Decembr 14th, and as proposed have Settled a Correspondence for Trade, wth Mr Sparrow on wt Terms I have given You account, in my Letter of 29th present, Sent in ye Ship where ye Goods are, in ye Friendship Captn Sea Master bound for Newport. wch if it arrives as I hope it will, will render repetition, in ys Needless. I will only add One Word relative to ye Same in that omitted. That you will add to ye Sterling Price of ye Goods in Mr Sparrows Invoice, what you allow me on ye Same as my ₰quisite 2½ ₰ Cent or wt is reasonable on which You will make ye advance for yr Selling Price. When or what I shall get here to make payment for the Goods I know not, or how the Draughts you have made on me will be affected by ye Defalcation made on the pay of officers or Soldrs. I have told Mr Sparrow you will doubtless make payment for Him, if yre be any failure of ys money, Set that You will buy Bills of Exch. of ye Colonys Louisbourg money, (for wch Dr Avery has ye Promise of an order to be Signed by ye King ye Next Week), wch doubtless you will do, as Soon as I shall be able to Inform You, as to ye Channel of ye Pay for ye Soldrs I shall do it.

When our apprehensions of Danger of any Sudden Attempts being Made to fix a Bishop in North america, were over, at once we are Surprized wth a revival of ye Design as I just intimated to you, but on further Enquiry we find ye Scheme is a Little Varied, from a Bishop to a Vicar Genl who may be Commissioned by ye King & Arch:

Bishop, so yt in ys Way yy are Delivered from ye Difficulties yt Lay in ye way of getting a Bishop Establised, wch must have been done by Parliament. or Brethren ye Dissenters here have took ye alarm, & yir Comtee Desired Dr Avery, to do all in his power to prevent ye Evil Threatned, & this will be emproved to accomplish (if it may be) a Coalition among ye Sevl Denominations of Dissenters here, that hower otherwise differing in Sentiment, they may be United in ye great Point of Liberty Civil & Religious, and we in N. England United to ym yrin, wch I hope may be accomplished. I have proposed it to Dr Avery & others, who will Labr also in it, and Letters are going to N England on ys Errand, I have Wrote now to my Brother upon it, to whom I refer you fr any further Infrmation yn ys hint, & to wch Design I doubt not you will Lend assistance if Needed.

About an Agent I may Say Nothing, rather than We Should Suffer Dr avery might probably be prevailed wth to Serve us till ye Fall Session, tho' he always Sais he is not willing to have any further Concern wth ye Money, than to Lodge it in ye Bank, and by ye Way you will take Effectual Care, That Use may be made of that Money, to answer Charges here, wch ye Dr now Supposes may not be used but accordg to ye assembly's appropriating act for sinking ye Biils. Mr Partridge has Laid out money, & more is Due, wch is not paid, contracted by ye affrs of ys Winter, wch must be answered. He talks of a Voyage to Pensylvania, Some time in May, wth design to return before winter, is at present fixed in it. He will pass thrô Hartford, & has promised me (if he does) to see Col. Pitkin). If you can throw any Business into my Hand while I stay here, that will be of any profit, I shall be obliged to You, and let me ask Whether it is not best for ye Officers to pray ye assembly, to give up yir Bonds to ym wch they gave for ye Money they had to furnish themselves for ye Expedition, and may it not reasonably be Expected, from ye assembly, that they should give them that Money, Since they have done, what Eventually proves So much Damage & Loss to them, Even if after farther application they should obtain ye remainder

of yir Due. The assembly may Grant a favr to Coll Talcot & Me, If or Hands are not to ye Petition. If you approve of ye Thing pray advise Some of ye officers yrin. I conclude wth my best Wishes for You & yrs

Yr Faithfful Friend
and Servt
ELISHA WILLIAMS.

P. S. I told you in mine of ye 29th I Sent [ ] Glass [ ] & an acct of ye Price.

[ ] Quarries of Common Glass cut 10 quarrs to one foot, 1£ 4 o ℔ 100 feet, 250 foot ℔ Chest.

Quarries of Crown Glass 4d ℔ foot.

Crown Glass Squares, 7 by 9 @ 8d ℔ foot, of 200 feet in a Chest weight abt 1c 1 12

Best Crown Sash Squares 11d ℔ foot.

2d Sort 9d ℔ foot.

N B These Goods require a Debenture by it Self

As to ye Affr of Spencer all that I can Inform as yet is, That ye Women who pretended to have been wife to Charles Spencer, Lived at That Time in ye West, Near aboutt Portsmouth, took out her Letter of administration from ye Bishop of Exeter's Court, Improved an Attourney at Portsmouth, to get his Friend here at London (employed in Business of yt Kind), to Demand & receive of ye Money in her behalf here, wch He did, & transmitted it to Him. The attourney wch lived here, Mr Reynolds is Since Dead. A Letter has been Sent to ye Attourney at Portsmouth, to Enquire into the matter. Some Information or other is Soon expected. If anything can be got, it shall be Endeavoured.

I may not omit Saying to you both, That if any Letter be Written at any Time to ye Colony's agent, directing to ye Employing of an attourney in any Case I propose another Person Instead of Mr Sharp. Sct Mr Neal, by principle a Dissenter (ye other not So), whose profession is yt of ye Law, whose Character take not from me, but from Dr Doddridge in a letter wrote a few Days ago, in yse Words, Sct "The Wisest & Worthiest Man of his Years, that I recollect

ever to have known Mr Neal (at the Million Bank) Son to your Historian." I own I am for employing Men on all occasions, for ye Colony, whose Principles will incline them to be Faithful to us. He would do well for an Agent, but Sais he has too Much other Business, but is ready to Serve us in any Cause wrin he may be Useful as a Sollicitor. I hear Nothing from you abt ye Line between ye Colonies, So yt Nothing is done, I hope yrfore You are agreed, among yrselves, I. E. ye Colonys, as Dr Avery Sais they hate us, and treat us ill because we are a Charter Government. So I fear no Good would come to us, at ye present Juncture, if ye Dispute shd come before ye King and Council.

The King will Soon go to Hannover.

I am ut Supra

E. W.

Messrs Trumble, Pitkin, Williams

[Indorsed by Jonathan Trumble] Coll Williams Mar 30 1750 No 4

JONATHAN TRUMBLE TO ELISHA WILLIAMS.

Lebanon July 6th 1750.

Sir

I wrote you lately ℔ via Boston, and Then Told you I should write again soon, & now ℔ Capt Talcot from New London Inform that The Goods shipt ℔ Capt Sears Arrived The 9th June last, & That now we have gotten Them home; & Settled considerably about them, That They are like to meet a quick Sale: & That The Proposals made in your's concerning a Motion To The Parliament On Account of The Canada Wages, coming so late to hand have done nothing upon them, & Think it not best for you to Tarry to Negotiate That affair, but to leave it with Friends To Transact as They Shall Think best, & may be directed hence; As for The Time & method of Pay of what is granted hope it will not Turn out against us, but That it will be soon paid, & in The Channel we discoursed on; & That Considerable will Come out of That Towards The pay

of Mr Sparrow for The Goods already recd however least That should fail have laid in for £500 Sterling of The Money, wch I hope before now is in Doct. Avery's hand, & as soon as advised of it shall have The Bill, & I hope That Colo Pitkin & your son will Each Obtain as much, but 'tis something uncertain, for This only £10,000 of That money to be disposed of before The Next Session of Assembly, and The Whole is Appropriated To The now Settled Inhabitants of ye Colony; At wch the Mercts in The Province are much Alarmed, Tho' They in their Turn Tho't it Equal & Just to refuse us Tho' possessors of Never so many of Their Bills To have The Silver for Them: however I hope to obtain More of Those Bills after October

In the Mean Time Think it best to be pursuing our Trade, & In oder for It have Enclosed you another Memorandum for Goods. The Last being many of Them Fall Goods Shall now want some others; & As flax has been very Scarce so Linnen & Check hath been in great demand.

You'l doubtless observe in my Memo given you here There is Hat Trimings, Felt Hatts &c wch will do well, and You'l see in The Memo account of Some Goods from Bristol & New Castle, wch If you could any way Compass would be Serviceable to us, and If you could Obtain of Some Merct In London or Elsewhere to Contract to have a ship &c built for him, I had Rather do it & let him have it at prime Cost than fail, & we can build as well & much Cheaper Than is done in The Province: We have wrote To Mr Sparrow To Acknowledge his Favours To you & us, & To desire his Continuance in our Favour. You have doubtless heard of The Death of Your Daugt Anne; & We are now with Compassion to Inform you of The Death of Madm Williams, by wch Your Affliction will be very Much Renewed, And We Pray That the God of all Grace would be pleased to uphold & Support you under your repeated losses.

[Indorsed by Jonathan Trumble.] Copy To Colo Williams July 1750.

JONATHAN TRUMBLE TO ELISHA WILLIAMS.

LEBANON Novr 26th 1750

Dear Sir

Your's p Colo Talcot of May 15, 1750, with ye Duplicate Thereof & Postscript of May 24th 1750 p Capt Worster, came to hand in Augt & Septr last, Wherein You gave us raised hopes of Seeing you so soon after we received them that twas tho't improbable An Answer would find you in London, & we consulted on the Subject and liked well the proposal of being interested wth Mr Sparrow in the Snow you had on our Joynt Account purchased part of, and projected To Send her with a Load of flax seed to Ireland, as soon as she should Arrive and accordingly Applied ourselves to purchase it, and had secured considerable part thereof before we received your's of Augt 11th in which Our expectations were dashed, and our designs frustrated; and Then Your's of The 21st of Augt shewed your prudent conduct with respect to the Snow, and The not Sending any more, or but few Goods 'till our former debt should be paid, & you able to return in the Spring, which Earnestly hope you will not be disappointed in, & then be able to make out a considerable Sortment for us; The Delay of The Pay of The Regiment is very detrimental indeed, & very Grievous for you to be detained from the Dear Remains of Your family but hope the Government have or will Soon pay The Money, & Enable you to be getting ready for an Early Voyage in the Spring.

No Intelligence arrived here from Doct Avery that The Cape Breton money was paid him 'till the Setting of our Assembly in October, & then nothing could be done about getting of Bills of Excha on him 'till That was over; & we were about the pursuing of that matter with the Comtee when we Were Surprized with News of Govr Law's death, who died the monday after ye rising of the Assembly, viz the 5th Instant, so that nothing then could be done 'till an Assembly should be called, and A Govr Elected, wch was done & the Assembly met on Wednesday last, & Made Unanimous Choice of Deputy Govr Wolcott to be Govr and

Colº Thos Fitch to be Deputy Govr & Cheif Judge of our Superiour Court: but Then another Difficulty fell in our way, In Octº last The Lower House shewed a Disposition to disconcert The Act of Assembly in May 1749 for appropriating our Sterling money to Sink our outstanding bills, & to Sell The Money in the Manner therein proposed, yet could then gain no Act repealing or altering that Act, yet refused To Ascertain the rate of Exchange, wch They hoped many of Them would prevent The Comtee's proceeding, Yet They had Concluded to proceed 'til the last mentioned Assembly came together, & They put in very hard To be instructed how to proceed & at what rate to Sell, Yet The Lower House Obstinately refused To do any Thing about it, upon wch The Comtee Seemed to resolve to do nothing upon it, & Told us they would not proceed to sell or do any thing relating to the Sterling Money, but let it lye 'till May, but upon Some Considerable debate with them upon the Necessity of yr going forward, in order To Secure our Faith & Credit both here & in England, & The dangerous Consequence of Delay both to our Credit & Peace, we prevailed so far upon them as to get a reconsideration of The matter, & they then told us they would Advise & Consider further upon it & let us know what they would do by the 5th of December next; but we have reason to believe they will proceed, & That we Shall gett bills To the Value of £800 or £1000 Sterling, which Shall forward imediately after we can obtain them; Thus uncertain we find ourselves when we Depend On Governments: In The Mean Time hope that you will have Received The Pay of The Regiment, and The Companies we have Agreed To pay of will Yeild Considerable, I hope There will be considerably more Coming to me than what I have drawn for, & I have paid To Non Comission Officers & Soldiers belonging to Majr Hewet's Capt Lee's Capt Denison's & Capt Whiting's Companies to The Value of more than £300 Sterling more than What I gave You Account of when we parted & Mr Cook tells me he has purchased considerable for us, with the money he had of us when at Boston; & I shall proceed as fast as I can

with safety in paying of Those Companies; As To what Colº Pitkin has done in that regard I am not able to Say. Your Son Told me had paid off Considerable part of Your own Compª. As to what You mention respecting The Masts to be bro't down Connecticutt River I have Enquired & have got a peice of The Timber at about 40 feet distance from The Stubb, which was taken out of a Stick of Timber that was got by the former Mast Company, & have forwarded it with this to Shew The Quality of The Timber & Think it will do it, & am told by Some persons who pretend skill that it is Good, but whether such a Smal peice will Sufficiently do it I am uncertain but that is the best I can do at present, & possibly it may Satisfy us whether tis best to make any further Enquiry & Attempt about it; but should it be worth while to do any thing about it, There must be Authority obtained to prevent others from destroying The standing Timber, & from Cutting up, & Destroying what we shall get & Send down The River, & Then The undertaking I fear will be too large for us alone, & possibly Mr Sparrow may Interest himself with us about it, which should be highly pleased with, if the affair might Appear likly to be profitable to him & us; As To what Colº Waldo says about The Timber being softer & more Sap yn yt at The Eastward, it is said by The people here yt were Concerned with him That he then Said it was too hard & So not so good as That at The Eastward.

As to what you write respecting the difficulty accruing by reason of your underwriting The Bills drawn in Boston, I have wrote to Mr Hubbard upon who will doubtly give orders to his Correspond to Take only the Neat wages on the draughts made & I hope no great difficulty will arise I have his & thes Other Gentlemans securities to pay as they shall receive. They are Gentlemn of Honour & I don't Imagine they will let you or me be hurt upon it.

The Goods we have recd are now chiefly Sold some by wholesale & others by Retail; The Operation of The Boston Act was & is like to be favourable to our Trade, if we can but find means to keep our Trade runing, & in some good

Measure Secure the Credit & Value of our own Medium: We have not yet consulted what Cargo to prepare for our Ship when you shall Arrive but shall Endeavour to project what we shall think most advantageous for us & be in as good readiness as we can. As for Coals, Grinstones & Glass from New Castle I think That They may Serve for Ballast, & so a Quantity Sufficient for that End may do well. The dimension of The Grinstones, some should be large, & others of Comon & ordinary Size for farmers Use Such as 18 Inch, 2 feet, 2½ & 3 feet Diameter. The Glass had best be 6 ℔ 8, 7 ℔ 9, & Crib Glass of the X's.

As for Mr Neal's Globes you mention should be glad of The Entertainmt of Them, but They Seem to me to come so dear, that I am afraid to venture upon 'till I consult further upon it, & will write you more upon it by the next opportunity wch I Intend to Embrace, & shall then write Joyntly to you; for I write this Singly by myself That you may be some what Acquainted with our Tho'ts, & what we have been doing, & least what we Shall write Joyntly may not get to you so soon as I shall be glad it may, I have Enclosed The Widw Smith's further Certificates, with Power To Mr Sparrow to receive for her, & her Letter of Direction to him to receive for her, & from Time to Time to pursue our Directions as to the Laying out her money; I offered her (after I recd Your's Intimating the Matter relating to her) to Take The Goods to The Value of what you received for her, but she said that it was a Matter of Indifferency wth her whether she had it before you returned & was highly oblidged to you. The State of The Case respecting the Line between this Colony & The Massachusetts will be forwarded to Mr Partridge Soon. Tho we have once more offered to Treat with Them On the Subject on Their own proposals, wch Govr Wolcot will Inform of.

We have procured a Declarative Act respecting The Act of Assembly wch has been so detrimental to yr Regiment, but have not got it from The Secretary & must leave it to be Enclosed in our next, wch shal be as soon as possible.

I hope Applying to Parliament in that Case may no ways Endanger the Interest & Liberties of The Colony, had rather forego that than Endanger our Charter Priviledges. Whether it be not possible to get the Victualling of Tebucta, i e Hallifax, or Some other business of That kind I leave to You to Consult. I am Apt To Think The fishery there, as well as The Whale fishery may be made Branches of business by wch we may be Enabled to make Returns.

Our Linnen & Check Answered well by reason of The great Scarcity of flax but now flax is Exceeding plenty, & Therefore Think that The Coarse Sort of White Linnen may not answer So well, but That wch is considerable finer In General Than the last was. The Chect may do as before. The Silk handkerchiefs were too Smal, & Came out to dear. The Large Bandano flowered handkerchiefs are much more Vendable.

[Indorsed by Jonathan Trumble] Copy To Colo Williams Novr 1750.

TRUMBLE, PITKIN AND WILLIAMS TO ELISHA WILLIAMS.

Lebanon December 31st 1750.

Dear Sir

The 26th Novemr last Our J. T. wrote you according to our minds, and expressed our Satisfaction in your Prudent conduct in our affairs, & our good liking in being concerned with Mr Sparrow in the Snow you purchased part of for us; and That we should in the best manner consult where to send her from hence, when you should arrive here in her, have since determined to get a freight of Logwood, Tarr, Oyl, Tobacco, staves &c (if to be had) and send her directly back; If That should fail then to Send her to New foundland with Pork, Rhum &c, from Thence To The streights & to London. We shall Expect her in the Spring, many people are sending from hence for goods, therefore hope you may get a full freight hither. Therein also you was

informed of The Death of our Late Govr Law, & The Election of Dept Govr Wolcot to be our Govr, and Coll Tho Fitch to be Dep Govr, and the delay which thereby happened to The affair of the sale of our Sterling Money in the hands of Doct Avery, with some other difficulties that happened in that affair. We have assiduously pursued The Matter which So greatly affected the Credit & Peace of our Colony, & The Stability of our Medium, & so The interest of every honest Man, & have at last prevailed with the Comtee to proceed, And have got 5 Setts of bills of Excha on Doct Avery payable one

To Trumble Pitkin & E. Williams Jun	£1115	9	4
To Jabez Huntington Esqr	200		
To Ichd Robinson	200		
To Joel White	100		
To Danll Lothrop	100		

£1715 9 4 wch we have Sent Mr Sparrow on our Joynt Acco & Endorsed to him

You was likewise informed of the declarative Act of Assembly, respecting the furlow Act which proved so very detrimental to The regiment which is now Enclosed. He wrote concerning the Masts to be got down Connecticutt River, purpose in the Spring to Send up & get a Logg that may effectually Show the quality of ye Timber & send it to Mr Sparrow: thinking the piece we Spoke of would not Answer ye End as a Specimen. We make no doubt but the mast Affair may be very serviceable to this Colony, & might be so used as to make a very considerable part of the remittances which will be needed from Hence; but then it is too large for us, without the help of some others, & if Mr Sparrow Satisfy Himself of The quality of The Timber & interest Himself with us about it, should be much encouraged. Yet should be very carefull to Examine the affair well before we Undertake. a Surveyor of the Woods Comissioned by his Majesty will be needfull (if the matter be pursued). This Our Secrety Wyllys spake of, and desired a remembrance in that regard: Mr Ledyard says he is well assured of the good quality of the timber, and that the

Ship in which Mr Sparrow went from hence with him was masted with this Same timber, and that it was viewed in Bristol by good Judges, and lookt upon to be the best they had ever seen from America; and the reason he did not pursue the affair before was the largeness of the undertaking; and doubts not a good Profit accruing from a vigorous prosecution of it, and would gladly interest himself in it to a Considerable Sum: We purpose in the Spring to send up some persons who are good Judges in timber to veiw the woods, to See the quality of The Timber to gett us the logg mentioned before to be sent Mr Sparrow, and to See what advantages, & disadvantages may attend the getting them into & down the River, what the Expences may be Estimated at, & what quantities there are, and what the Largest Dimensions, &c. We suppose the place of The Growth of this Timber is further North than at the Eastward; and can be gott only in a Time of peace, while that at the Eastward may be growing, & a Reserve for the Supply of his Majesty's Navy in a Time of Warr. It is Judged here that The Reason why Mr Waldo did not pursue the getting this Timber, was his Interest at the Eastward, & that he could pay for the getting that at the Eastward Easier than this, & Not because he apprehended the quality of this not to be So good as That. We apprehend Mr Sparrow can easily Obtain for you a Copy of Messrs Tomlinson &c Contract for The Eastward Masts, which may be serviceable for us;

It may be benefeciall to us to know at what ℔ month a Ship of about 400 Tons Sutable for this Trade may be Chartered, and what she will Carry, that we may be able to make an Estimate of The Charges. you will advise upon the Subject there, and lay such a foundation for the Affair that if upon further enquiry it may be tho't best to pursue it we may be able to do it, & you enquire of every thing upon it that you may think proper. What The Widw Ednah Smith hath done to Impower & direct Mr Sparrow was Enclosed In the last and now a duplicate is forwarded. We have Enclosed a particular Invoice of Goods to be pur-

chased for us. We Submitt the matter to you to shorten, increase or alter the Quantities as You shall think best, and to Add other Goods, as you are better able to Judge about many things than we are: There is No doubt of a quick market for goods. You can't easily imagine the stagnation of our Trade to Boston for goods, and The disposition which appears in our shop keepers to Trade with us, & push forward an Importation directly to ourselves, and hope we shall effect it. If it were practicable to obtain the Priveledge to Supply the Kings Stores at Hallifax &c especially the Meat Kind, it might help us, as we are well able to do it. We must leave that, & anything else you may think proper to Enquire on the head of Trade, To you not doubting but you will Inform yourself in the best Manner you can. Majr Fowler has wrote to You by this conveyance, and when he came here, he desired me to put you in mind of the books he spoke to you of viz Cruden's Concordance, & Dr Dodrige's Paraphrase On the New Testament, & That Instead of Pool's Annotations, you gett Henry's Annotations; and he will pay The ballance, at The usual Advance Goods are Sold at here. At the Desire of a Friend I have Sent you a Stone, The qualities & Value of which he desires you to find for him, & let me know on your Return.
[Indorsed by Jonathan Trumble] Copy of My Letter To Colo Williams Decr 1750

CONFERENCE WITH THE SIX NATIONS OF INDIANS.

1751 June 25th

Present Governour Clinton

from Neyourk
Doctor Colden
Mr Allexander
Mr Delancee
Mr Holand

from South Carolina
Mr Bull

from Boston
Mr Wendall
Mr Dwight
Mr Patridge

Connecticut
Mr Pitkin
Mr Chester

July 3d the Governour and Commishioners of New york Mett the Indions. they Coldoleed the there own Loss of Some of there Principall Men and More espeshally the Death of the Prince of Wales

The 6th the folowing Speach was Deliverd In the Presence of all the Commishtioners

Breatheren

The Desine of My Meeting With You at this Time is to Renew the Covenant Chain to Cleanse away all Rust to Brighten it and Strengthen it So that it May forever endure, as this Chain has Lasted so Long and Securd uss against the Designs of our enemies who have at all Times endeavoured and are Still endeavouring to Break it they Would be Glad that Wee or you should Lett it Slip, Lett us then hold it fast with all our Strength and secure it at Boath ends.

Commitioners of the Neighbouring Collonys of the Massachusetts' Bay and Connecticutt, have Met you at the Counsell fire in this place from the earliest Time and are Now Come again, here is also a Commishoner from South Carolina which Province Being a Great way off hath Never Sent any Commishtioner Before this Time. these Commishtioners are all Come hither to assist us in Strengthening and holding fast the old Covenant Chain. And Now by this belt in your father the King of Great Britain's Name and in behalf of all his Majestys Subjects in North America Renew and Confirm the Covenant Chain and all former Ingagements of Love and frendship between us and you that they may Remain firm and unshaken as Long as the Son and Moon Shall Indure. The Chain Belt

Bretheren. One Great End and purpose of this Chain is to Secure trade and Commerce between us and you and by your Means with all the Nations of Indians which ley to the Westward. by this Means the power and Authorety of the Six Nations is greatly Increased Among all their Neighbours as they must Come thro your Countrys to cary on this Commerce So Necissary for them. and when they See the Strength & Numbers of your Bretheren all over this

great Continent United togather in this Covenant Chain they must have a high Opinion of our power. The Governor of Canada dreads this Union of the Bretheren with us and with the distant Nations to the westward & Southward as far as Missisippi and for this Reason he is always Indevouring to break this Chain by Obstructing and Stoping the trade & Commerce that is between this place and the far Indians who pass thro your Countries.

I am told that he is at this time Building a fort on your Lands at Oniagara to Stop the Indians in their way to trade with us If you Should Suffer him to do this the Six Nations will become weak and Mean in the Eyes of all the Neibouring Nations, for these Forts will be like Bitts & bridles in their Mouths by which you & the other Indian Nations must turn and go as the Governour of Canada pleases. Your Brethern the English Make no Attempts on you to restrain your Liberty of going to trade where you like best & where you can be best Served, Whereas these Forts which the French build are to take this Liberty from the other Nations & to force them to go to Canada and thereby to withdraw there Love and frindship us & you and to Make them our Enemies. I therefore by this Belt in the Name of your father the King Insist & Require of you that as Soon as possible you Send a proper Number of your Men to Oniagara to Oblidge the French to forbear their Erecting any forts or Other Buildings there or at Ohio or any where Else on your Land and to demolish what is already built. It will be much Easer to prevent their being built than to pull them down when they are built. A Belt.

Brethren Another Artifice the Enemies of our Covenant Chain Make use of to Encite Variance & war between the Several Indion Nations which are United with your Breathern the English in the Several parts of this great Continent as Nothing can So Effectually weaken & at Last Entirely disstroy the Brethern as there falling out among them Selves & mutually Killing and destroying one another. this is doing the Work of your Enemies while they Sett Looking on and laugh at your folly. If all the Indian Nations

United in frindship with Carolina Virginia Maryland Pensylvania this Government Connecticut Massachusetts & New Hamshire ware truly and firmly United in the Same with Love and frindship how great would that power be, What dread must it Strike on their Enemies & who dare attempt to hurt them. In Order to Accomplish this so much to be desired Union I have prevailed upon the Governour of South Carolina to Send a Gentleman to this place whome you Now See here and to send with him Six of the Chiefs of the Calawbas who are Now in this City ready to Make peace with you and to become your fast frinds & to Unite with you in the Common Cause. I therefore by this Belt Excite you to lay hold of this profered peace and frindship with the Calawbas which must tend to Strengthening the Covenant Chain & the Common Interest of us all. I can No Longer bear to See those who are our Bretheren killing and destroying one another I therefore do not doubt of your Cheerfully agreeing to what I now propose. A Belt of peace

As the keeping the path Open to this place from all the Indian Nations to the Westward of you is of So great Benefitt to you as well as to the Common Interest of us all I give this Belt to Remove all Loggs or other Rubbish that may obstruct it A Belt

I design in a little time to pass over the great Waters to the King your father. purswade my Self that your ready Compliance with what I now Require of you will Enable me to Recommend you to his favour, and that I may tell the King of this among many Other Instances of your dutifullness to him & thereby Secure to you his protection. And as the time of My Embarking draws Neer I must Recommend to you all possible despatch to the Afaire now Before you A Belt

INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE LORDS JUSTICES TO THE COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

L S

By The Lords Justices.

GRANVILLE P. GOWER C P S

MARLBOROUGH HOLDERNESSE.

Instruction to the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut in New England in America for the time being. Given at Whitehall the Sixteenth Day of April 1752, in the twenty fifth Year of His Majesty's Reign.

Whereas by the Charter granted to the Governor and Company of Connecticut in New England in America, by His late Majesty King Charles the Second, bearing date at Westminster the twenty third Day of April in the fourteenth Year of the said King's Reign, the said Governor and Company are empowered to make, ordain and establish all manner of wholesome and reasonable Laws, Statutes and Ordinances, and to carry the same into immediate execution; provided the same be not contrary and repugnant, but as near as may be agreeable to the Laws of this Kingdom of England: And whereas Appeals are frequently brought before His Majesty in His Privy Council from the Judgements and Decrees made in the several Courts of Judicature within the said Colony of Connecticut, the Determination whereof depends upon being duly informed of the Laws subsisting within the same; It is therefore His Majesty's Will and Pleasure, and you are hereby directed and required to cause a true and authentic Copy to be made of all the Laws, Statutes and Ordinances now in force within the said Colony of Connecticut, and to transmit the same duly authenticated under the publick Seal of the said Colony to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, as soon as conveniently may be, in order to be laid before His Majesty in His Privy Council.

G P. G C P S M: H:

[Indorsed] Instruction From the Lords Justices Aprill 15 1752 To send An Authentick Copy of our Laws Recd Sep^{r} 2 1752

EARL OF HOLDERNESSE TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

WHITEHALL 28th August 1753.

Gentlemen,

His Majesty having received Information of the March of a Considerable Number of Indians, not in Alliance with the King, supported by some Regular European Troops, intending, as it is apprehended, to commit some Hostilities on Parts of His Majesty's Dominions in America, I have the Kings Commands, to send You this Intelligence, and to direct you to use Your utmost Diligence, to learn how far the same may be well grounded, and to put you upon Your Guard, that you may at all Events, be in a Condition, to resist any Hostile Attempts, that may be made upon any Parts of his Majesty's Dominions, within Your Government; and to direct You in the Kings Name, that in case the Subjects of any Foreign Prince or State, should presume to make any Incroachment on the Limits of His Majesty's Dominions, or to Erect Forts on his Majesty's Lands, or commit any other Act of Hostility, You are, immediately, to represent the Injustice of such proceeding, and to require them, forthwith to desist from any such unlawfull undertaking, but if, notwithstanding Your Requisition, they should still persist, You are then to draw forth the armed Force of the Province, and to use Your best Endeavours, to repel Force by Force; But as it is His Majesty's Determination, not to be the Agressor, I have the King's Commands most strictly to Enjoin You, not to make use of the armed Force under Your Direction, excepting within the undoubted Limits of His Majesty's Dominions.

And whereas it may be greatly conducive to his Majesty's Service, that all His Provinces in America should be Aiding and Assisting Each other in case of any Invasion, I have it, particularly in Charge from his Majesty, to acquaint You, that it is His Royal Will and Pleasure, that you should keep up an Exact Correspondence with all his Majesty's Governors on the Continent; and in Case you shall be informed by any of them, of any Hostile Attempts, You are immediately to Assemble the General Assembly within

Your Government, and lay before them the Necessity of a Mutual Assistance, and Engage them to grant such Supplies as the Exigency of Affairs may require. I have wrote by this Conveyance to all his Majesty's Governors to the same purpose.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant

HOLDERNESSE

Governor & Company of Connecticut.

REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON CASE OF SPANISH SHIP.*

To The Hon^ble^ General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticutt Now Setting in New-Haven.

We the Subscribers being Desired by His Honour The Governour in May Last to repair to New London, & Gett The Evidences relating to The Spanish Snow S^t^ Joseph & S^t^ Helena which came there in Nov^r^ 1752, In Distress, and Report Thereon to this Assembly, Take Leave to do it as follows Viz That We have in conformity to his Honour's Direction repaired to Said New London and have obtained The Depositions of Col^o^ Gurdon Saltonstall, Mess^rs^ Andrew M^c^Kenzie, Joseph Chew, Robert Sloan, and John Simpson all New London persons well Acquainted with Great part of the Most Material Transactions of The Case relating to Said Spanish Snow & her Cargo, and the Depositions of Sundry other persons acquainted with some particular Transactions relating Thereto, Which are Sworn before Authority in Said New London, and are now Ready To be Laid before This Hon^ble^ Assembly, and Said Depositions Shew

That The Said Spanish Snow S^t^ Joseph & S^t^ Helena, richly Laden & Comanded by Don Christ^o^ Uranagoe Cap^t^, Don Domingo Serendo, Second Cap^t^, & Don Joseph Miguel, de S^t^ Juan Super Cargo, of S^d^ Snow on the 12^th^ Nov^r^ 1752 on the High Seas, in Lat. 30° North, & Longitude 72° West

* The date of this report is uncertain. It is probably October 1753; but may be a year or more after that time.

From London, being in Distress, The Brig^{e} Susanna, whereof John Simson was Master, came up with Said Snow, and Assisted in Saving & bringing her into New London Where the Said Brig wth Said Snow Arrived On the 24th day of Nov^{r} 1752, and after Some Misfortune by Runing upon a Reef of Rocks & Difficulty in Saving The S^{d} Snow & Cargo, The Same was bro't into S^{d} New London, & her Cargo was Deposited in Several Warehouses & Stores in Said New London

That The Hon^{ble} Roger Wolcott Esq^{r} Gov^{r} In Dec^{r} 1752 went to New London, & Inquired into the Lawfulness of S^{d} Snow's Entring the Port of New London & Landing her Cargo, & To Give Proper Orders in The Case, and Upon Examination found That She Came into the Harbour by Distress & had Lawfully Landed her Cargo, and Accordingly His Hon^{r} the S^{d} Gov^{r} Ordered The Collector of his Majestys Customs To Take The Cargo & Effects of Said Snow into his Safe Custody, which was accordingly done and on The 12th Dec^{r} 1752 His Honour The Gov^{r} Ordered an Inventory to be Taken of the Spanish Cargo afore S^{d} w^{ch} was Accordingly done, and is drawn In Jos. Chew's Deposition page 3^{d}.

That his Honor The Gov^{r} on the 18th Dec^{r} 1752 Appointed Gurdon Saltonstall Esq^{r} Agent to Supply The Spanish Officers & Men with all Necessaries, & To Refit The Snow S^{t} Jos & S^{t} Helena (or if Need be) To Charter Another Vessel for The Safe Conduct of The Spanish Cargo & her Company to Spain

That Dec^{r} 19 1752 Lewis Morris Esq^{r} Judge of Vice Admiralty Entred Into on Enquiry respecting Said Snow & her Cargo, & on The 26th day of Said Dec^{r} John Coit, Charles Follett & Joseph Coit Ship Carpenters, by order of S^{d} Court to Survey S^{d} Snow, Reported That They found her so Rotten & Worm Eaten, as to Render Uncapable of being Repaired to The Advantage of The Owners

That on The 30th of Dec^{r} 1754* The S^{d} Judge of Vice Admiralty Decreed That Said Simson Should have paid

* An evident error for 1752.

him for Salvage of Sd Snow and Cargo The Sum of Twenty Three Thousand pieces of Eight & Costs, Appears by The Decree.

That On 22d Janry 1753, by Order of Joseph Hull Esqr his Majestys Collector, Colo Saltonstall delivered Don Joseph Super Cargo of Sd Snow, Six Chests of Silver to pay off The Spanish Seamen, That on The 19th of Feb 1753 by an Order from Sd Collector, fourteen Chests more of Silver was delivered to Satisfy The Judgmt of The Court of Vice Admiralty.

That by another Order of the 20th of August 1753 Six Chests of Silver was delivered The Super Cargo of Sd Snow

That On the 27th Augt 1753 was Delivered To Henry Lane Agent & Attorney Appointed by Don Joseph Super Cargo of Sd Spanish Snow by order of Joseph Hull Esqr Collector, 13 Chests Silver, 1 Chest Gold, and the Other Merchandise that had been Lodged in Colo Saltonstall's Stores, Which Appears by The Orders Given Said Saltonstall, Copies Whereof are annexed to his Deposition; & by his & Mr Chew's Depositions

That on Augt 29th & 30th by order of Sd Collector Many More Articles of the Spanish Cargo was delivered To Sd Lane, & was Shiped On Board The Ship Nebucadnezer, Wch was by Sd Lane &c Chartered to Said Spanish Merchant or Super Cargo.

That at The Time That Lane recd The Spanish Money from Colo Saltonstall, he Put five Chests of The Silver on Board said ship, & found The Chest Supposed to Contain Gold to have nothing in it but Stones & Dirt, And besides what he paid for Charges of Storages &c he Sd Lane carried The Remainder with him To New York.

That Sundry Roberies & Thefts have been Committed, at sundry Times, & Except The Stealing the Chests of Gold, it hath been Chiefly done Since The Goods were Ordered by the Collector To be shipped on board The Nebucadnezer; and That Daniel Coit & Pygan Adams Esqrs Justices of The Peace did Offer Their Aid & Assistance To Sd Don Joseph Super Cargo to find out & Detect

The Villians wch had done it, but he Utterly Refused To Do any thing about it and

That Upon Information of the Grand Jurors for the County of New London, The County Court There have Examined & Tried several persons & found Them Guilty of Several Thefts wch Appears by The Records of Sd Court, And Upon the whole It Appears To us That The Transactions on The Part of The Colony & The Govr Thereof are Such, That They can't Apprehend Any Danger That This Colony will Ever be Oblidged To pay any Thing for the Loss Costs & Damages Sustaind; And it Appears To us That The Conduct of Said Super Cargo hath been very Strange & Extraordinary in Many Respects wch Appears in The Course of The Evidences, To Which your Honour's are Referred

By Your Honour's Obedient Humbl Servants

JAMES HAMILTON TO ROGER WOLCOTT.

Sir

I have received Information that a Party of your Inhabitants did some time ago pass thro the remote Parts of this Province in their Way to Wyomink upon Sasquehannah River, and gave out that they had made a Purchase of those Lands from the Mohock Indians and they had your Authority to come and settle them, being included within the Boundaries of the Connecticut Charter, and offered their Titles to any who were disposed to purchase; and this tho I then disregarded it as an idle Story is now confirmed by Persons of Character who have been in Connecticut, and assure me that a large Number of your Inhabitants tho without the Countenance or Knowledge of the Government were actually preparing to remove in the Spring and settle some of the Pennsylvania Lands on Sasquehannah, depending on their Indian Title, and not designing to pay any Regard to the Rights of our Proprietors, or apply to this Government for their Leave and Authority.

Tho I can scarce perswade myself that any considerable Number woud engage in so rash and unjust a Proceeding,

yet as it may be true tho highly improbable, I find myself obligd to communicate to your Honour these Informations, and entreat you would be pleased to do all in your Power to prevent these People from putting their Design in Execution, assured as I am that if they make the Attempt they will involve this Province in an endless Scene of Trouble and Confusion, and as they must expect Opposition, it may prove prejudicial to the Cause of the Colonies. If, as is very probable, we shall be engaged in a War to repel the French who have actually invaded this Province, and are now erecting Forts and driving away our Traders within its limits, a Number of Strangers shoud come amongst Us and forcibly take Possession of our Lands, what can his Majesty or the other Colonies think, but that they are Enemies to their Country and design to hinder this Government from exerting its Force against the common Enemy by raising a Civil War within its Bowels.

I beseech your Honour further to consider that the Six Nations will be highly offended if these Lands on Sasquehannah be overrun with White People, for they are their Favourite Lands and reserved for their hunting, and many of them live there, and they have the Faith of this Government solemnly and repeatedly plighted that no White People shall settle there, and if notwithstanding these Published Engagements they shoud now be setled, I will not answer for the Consequences, they may not only turn their Arms against the Setlers but withdraw themselves from our Alliance which might at this time prove the Ruin of our Affairs, and involve the Colonies in endless Bloodshed and Expence.

I cannot conceive how the Inhabitants of Connecticut, whose Laws as well as Ours prohibit and render invalid all private Contracts with the Natives, coud go in so clandestine a manner to treat with the Mohocks about these Lands, surely they are worthy of much Censure on many Accounts, but at this time it is peculiarly unfortunate, as it may create a Difference between the Mohocks and the Rest of the Six Nations, between whom there is an Agreement that the

Mohocks shall have nothing to do with the Lands in Pennsylvania, nor take any Part of the Presents receivd for them, because they have already had more than their Share for other Lands, and therefore the Mohocks never come here in Treaties for Land.

But why will your Inhabitants chuse such a disorderly and dangerous Way of obtaining the Possession of Lands when they may have a legal Settlement. There is a large Extent of Country in the Western Parts of this Province and That of Virginia vacant and some of the best Lands in North America. If therefore any considerable Number of Families want to remove and are minded to settle these Lands, I make no doubt but our Proprietaries will be glad to give them good Encouragement, and if they encline that I shall write in their Favour, I will chearfully do it at your Instance, and press them to return a speedy Answer, which may arrive here time enough for the Hunters to go and view these Western Parts in the Winter, and prepare if they find them agreeable for their Removal as early as the Season in the Spring will permit.

Or if the Lands of Virginia shall be found more agreeable, I will recommend them to that Government who have lately made a Law for the Encouragement of New Settlers, and Both Governments will not fail to obtain for them the Friendship and kind of Assistance of the Indians in those Parts in whichever of the Two they shall [ ] to settle.

Should any of your Inhabitants be desirous to enquire of our Constitution and the Quality of the Lands in the uncultivated Parts of the Province, they will receive an impartial Account of them from the Gentleman who is charged with this Letter, who is a Member of Assembly and the Proprietaries Surveyer over Sasquehannah, and well acquainted with the Lands not yet appropriated, for these Reasons I have prevaild upon him to take this Journey, that he might answer any Questions and give Satisfaction in all Points necessary to be known in this Matter, and I crave Leave to recommend him to your Honour as a Gentle-

man whose Relations may be receivd with the utmost Confidence in whatever he be desired to give an Account of.

I am perswaded your Honour will perceive the dangerous Consequences that must needs attend the Settlement of the Sasquehannah Lands by your People in the manner they propose under the present Circumstances of Affairs, that it cannot fail to exasperate the Indians, raise a Civil War in the Province and distract the Government at a time when all the Attention I am Master of may be wanted to conduct the momentous [ ] of the Publick, execute his Majesties Commands and preserve the Colonies from falling a Prey to our Enemies. Suffer me then to repeat my Request that you woud please to detain your People at home, and prevail with them to hearken to sober and moderate Counsels, which in the End will prove more to their Advantage. I am with sincere Esteem

Your Honours
most obedient humble Servant
JAMES HAMILTON

Philadelphia 4th March 1754.

[Indorsed] From D Govr Hamilton March 4th 1754

JAMES HAMILTON TO THOMAS FITCH.

Governor Hamilton's Letter to the Depy Govr of Connecticutt.

Sir

Hearing that a Number of the Inhabitants of Connecticutt are preparing to Come and Settle Some Lands in This Province, in a forcible Manner, and being Apprehensive that it may be of bad Consequence at a time When we may be probably Engaged in a War to repell the Hostile Attempts of the French; I have wrote a Letter to Govr Wolcott on this Subject, and take the freedom to Enclose you, a Copy of it, & request you will be pleased to give Your Assistance in this Affair.

I have not the Honor of a Personal Acquaintance with you yet I am told the People have a great Esteem for you &

Dependance on your Judgement, Which I flatter myself will be favorable to this Application.

I Should not Doubt of Success if you would be pleased to Join your Influence with His Honour's in Setting this Matter in a true light.

I beg leave to recommend the Gentleman, Who delivers this Letter, to your Notice & Civilities, who is well Acquainted with our Constitution and the Quality of the Vacant Land within this province, & well Qualified to give your People Satisfaction, in any points they may want to know.

I am, with perfect Esteem & Regard
Your Honour's most obed^{t} Humble Servant
JAMES HAMILTON

PHILADELPHIA 4th March 1754.
The Hon^{ble} THO^{s} FITCH Esq^{r}

[Indorsed] Copy. Letters between the Governor of Pensylvania: and the Governors of Connecticutt; Relating to the Attempts of the Connecticutt People Settling Lands in Pensylvania. March 1754. Enclosed in L^{t} Gov^{r} Hamilton's to General Amherst of 10th May 1761. in M. G. Amherst's of Aug^{t} 13: 1761

THOMAS FITCH TO JAMES HAMILTON.

HATFORD 13. March 1754.

Sir.

As I am favoured with the Hon^{r} of yours of the fourth Instant by M^{r} Armstrong at a time I am obliged to Attend Public Business from Home, I can only just Signify, that having perused yours to Governor Woolcott* as well as that to me, do well approve of the Notice you take of the Attempt some of the people of this Colony are making, and the Concern you manifest for the General Peace of the British Interest, and his Majesties service, which so much depend on a regular proceeding in such Affairs. I know nothing of anything done by the Government to Counte-

*Gov. Roger Wolcott's reply is in WOLCOTT PAPERS, page 435.

nance such a Proceedure as you Intimate, and I conclude is going on among some of our people, I shall in all proper ways use my Interest to prevent every thing that may tend any way to prejudice the general good of these Governments, and am inclined to believe this Wild Scheme of our People, will come to nothing, tho' I can't certainly say. I heartily desire a good Harmony may subsist between your Government and others, and this in particular, I need not if had time Enlarge, seeing the worthy bearer of yours (with whose conversation and account concerning those Affairs I was well satisfied and Delighted) has I supose Received from Gov^{r} Woolcott a more full and satisfactory Answer to Your Hon^{r}, You'l please to command me further in this or in any other affair you shall think proper, all which shall be duly Honoured by him may it please your Honour who is

Your Hon^{rs} most
Obedient Humble Servant
THO^{S} FITCH

Gov^{r} Hamilton

THOMAS ROBINSON TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

Whitehall 26th March 1754.

Gentlemen

The King having been pleased to lay His Commands upon the Duke of Newcastle to serve him at the head of the Treasury, and his Grace having thereupon resigned, into the Kings hands the Seals of the Office of one of the Principal Secretaries of State, His Majesty has been most graciously pleased to honour me with the Office of his Principal Secretary of State for the Southern Department, in the Room of the Earl of Holdernesse, who is nominated to succeed the Duke of Newcastle in the Northern; And I am to desire that you will address your Letters to me for the future, and you may be assured that I will be very punctual in laying them before the King, and in transmitting to you such Instructions and Orders, as His Majesty

may think fit to give for your Guidance and Direction, I hope that you will at the same time be persuaded that I am

Gentlemen Your most humble Servant

T ROBINSON

Governor & Company of Connecticut

[Indorsed] Recd 12th July 1754

REPORT OF AUDITORS.

Hartford Septr 26: 1754.

Pursuant To an order of The General Assembly, We have Recd of The Treasurer £1388 11 4 In Bills of Credit New Tenour, bro't In by Rates from The Year 1749 To The Year 1751. We have also recd of him £2709 3 3 old Tenour Bills bro't in for Duties on Importation of Goods & Exportation of Lumber, and We have

Recd £3561 14 0 old Tenour Bills recd for Sales of Weed's Estate;

And £1256 15 6 old Tenour Bro't in for Import & Powder Money

and £895 0 1 old Tenour bro't in for Exchange.

And £1708 11 1 New Tenour Bro't in for Loan

And £1417 18 3 old Tenour Bro't in On Mortgages for Loan

And £2139 19 8 New Tenour bills That were sorted by The Auditors in May 1753 for Use and were not used.

And £480 4 3½ New Tenour bro't in for New Tenour Loan

And £954 14 7 New Tenr Bro't in on The last ¾ Tax, wch is The first Tax made for Lawful Money.

And £52,955 6. 5½ old Tenour, bro't in for The Sales of Bills of Exchange

And 18,996 18 0 old Tenour Bro't in On The Bonds for The Sterling Loan

All Which above Mentioned Sums in bills of Credit We have burn't & Consumed To Ashes. which makes in The Whole in old Tenour £105139 18s 10d.

We have rec^{d} of The Treasurer in Exchange for The £954 14 7 N Tenor bro't in by The Last Tax, in The Silver bro't in for the Sales of the Bills of Exchange, The Sum of £403 18 9 Computed in Lawful Money; Which we have delivered into the hands of The Treasurer for the payment of Debts, & current Expences of this Colony:

We have Examined The Silver & Gold bro't into The Treasury for The Sales of The Bills of Exchange, & find The Same right save some few Smal Disagrements therein; and have put both Silver & gold into Baggs, which we have Numbred, & marked The Quantity that is contained in Each bagg. We Likewise find £160 11 6 sterling which is bro't in for the Interest On The Sterling Loan; The Accounts concerning The Sterling Money both sold & Loaned, Are contained in a Smal book, herewith delivered in;

As To Settlement with The Comissaries, Agents, & Treasurer we were not able to go Thro' Therewith as Directed & Intended By reason of the Interposition of Divine Providence which called Jon^{n} Trumble Esq^{r} To Attend The Superiour Court at New London. We called for The Accounts from The Com^{rs} & Agents and Examined some of Them, & do not find any of Them Attended with any Difficulty, All w^{ch} is Submitted by us The Subscribers, concerned & Directed Therein.

[Indorsed by Jonathan Trumble] Report of Auditors

HORATIO SHARPE TO THOMAS FITCH.

[Horatio Sharpe, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, wrote on November 8, 1754, to Governor Thomas Fitch, as is stated in his reply of the 30th of the same month, informing that he had been commissioned to command all the forces raised in the several colonies to repel the French encroachments, and requesting that the Colony would endeavor to procure such supplies of men and money for that purpose as the exigency of affairs demanded. Sharpe's letters of the same date to the governors of several of the other colonies are in *Maryland Archives*, VI. 120—124.]

THOMAS FITCH TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

Norwalk 3d April 1755

Sir

I have herewith inclosed a Form of a Commission Sent me from Govr Shirley by which you will see the Service of the Forces pointed out and as it agrees in Substance with the Business Designed I think best to Draw our Commissions agreable to it as I have done my beating Orders and Proclamation. I have Drawn and Sent you a form for the Major-generals Commission as well as I could think at present supposing you would incline to see my tho'ts as to that yet I desire you to alter and correct the Draft wherein you think it best, the other Commissions you'l Meet with No Difficulty about if you make them Conformable to the form from Boston Mutatis Mutandis. as Govr Shirley Excuses himself from interesting himself in our Nominating the 2d officer I Suspect whether he will be acknowledged by any Commissions from other Governors tho' I can't say how that will be. However I tho't it best to word his Commission in geral Terms as I have which will be good for our Forces I beleive it will not be best in the other Commissions to Say that P. Lyman Esqr is Major General that being I suppose not customary but only mention the Commander in Chiefe You'l be pleased to form the Commissions in the best Manner you can and when prepared Send them to me to Sign. you will also Remember seasonably to prepare the Blank Commissions which the Assembly Desired me to put into the Hands of the Major General if in any point you should meet with difficulty in these matters you will doubtless Send me what it is and I shall give the best answer I can, the Commission for the Capt of the 4th Comp. 1t Regmt must not go to Capt Hosmer who Declines but to Mr Paison of your Town whose Name you know

In hast I am Sir your
Humble Servant
THOS FITCH

P. S. I have sent the forms I had of you which differ a little from Govr Shirleys such as you may think I shall

want you may send agen other wise it will be best you keep them

Let the Commissions be Dated 5th of this Month and as some of the Capts and Lts may Refuse it may perhaps be best to Leave a Blank for their Names

Mr Secretary

THOMAS FITCH TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

Norwalk 10th June 1755

Sir

Be please to Send me as soon as possible the Resolves of Assembly that I shall want and the Report of the Committee concerning the general Charge which were appointed to Consider Govr Shirleys Letter of 8th of May it is Drawn in Capt Halls hand writing and all such other Papers as I shall have occasion for, and a Commission for Col Johnson &c

I am yours &c
THOS FITCH

Mr Secretary

[Superscribed] To George Wyllys Esqr Secretary at Hartford

THOMAS FITCH TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

Norwalk 14th June 1755

Sir

I Recd the Commissions to Col Johnson &c and have Signed and herewith Return them for you to Compleat but observe there is none for Major Denison. You will be pleased to let Major-General Lyman know I have his Commission from Govr Shirly in Parchment which I purpose to Send by Major Fitch by whom I Expect a Commission from Govr Delancey that Commission from Govr Shirley is only Sealed with Wavers Covered with Paper as Usual the Impression plain. I don't at present think of any papers I want more than you Sent me except the New York Act of

Assembly which if you Could Recover and Send Should be glad.

I am Sr your Humble Servant
THOS FITCH

Mr Secretary

THOMAS FITCH TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

Fairfield 20th August 1755.

Sir

The Meloncolly News of the Death of the Treasurer* I Recd last Evening and this Day advised on the Affair you Mention and the Gentlemen of the Court with some others advise that you Confer with Mr Whitman Mr Ledyard and young Mr Stanley and with them take Some Measures for the Security of the Treasury till further orders it is tho't best that Some Careful and faithful Persons Lodge in the Room where the Treasury is and that it be not Left without proper Care in the Day Time. I shall Send you further as soon as I have time and oppertunity to have further Advice hope all will be Safe. I am Sr your

Humble Servant
THOS FITCH

Mr Secretary

THOMAS FITCH TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

New Haven 4th Septembr 1755

Sir

On my arrival here last Night I made all proper Inquiry and am not able to hear any thing of your Letter or Blank Commission so could not Sign any because Not Printed and as Mr Parker is gone to N. York I Doubt whether you can get them done here to acceptance or in Season I believe you must Send by Express to New London and get them done as soon as possible as some of the Companies are full or Near it particularly Capt Banks's this way I have in-

* Nathaniel Stanley, treasurer of the Colony, died August 17, 1755.

closed a Blank for a field officers Commission, hope none will be oblidged to wait for Commissions.

in hast I am your
very Humble Servant
THOS FITCH

Mr Secretary

THOMAS FITCH TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

Norwalk 9th Septembr 1755.

Sir

Last Night after Nine Recd the blank Commissions you Sent have Signed them and Six more for the Field officers and Sent pr the Same Express as for the Date of the Commissions I think the 1t Day of September will be Well or a little Later if any officer Engaged before that he ought to be paid from the Time he undertook the Service so that it is not Material what Date unless by giving of them too Early a Date the Pay would begin too soon perhaps You had better take the Advice of the Committee of ye Pay Table in this Matter who are to Settle the accts of Wages &c. and if the Commissions are Dated from the Time of the Officers Engaging I see no Difficulty if it can be come at, the Roll I have enclosed with the accts you took and will Receive at Hartford will Doubtless be Sufficient to inform you of the Officers, I hope you will fill up the Commissions as fast as Wanted and Desire you to Inform the officers when they Receive their Commissions and are Ready forthwith to March and not Wait for other Companys. I have Recd no Intelligence from the Army but Reports which I suppose are as plenty at Hartford as here Massachusets Assembly by the Advice of Council was ordered to Sit last friday what they do it is Likely you will hear before I shall, the New York Assembly are of opinion that its impracticable for them to Raise men in that Government Seasonable for the Service but it appearing to them we are Raising 2000 Men to Reinforce and are so forward in it that they apprehend Our Men may Join the Army in Season for Service

they have Voted £8000 towards the Charges attending this Reinforcements.

in hast and indisposed shall add Nothing
further but that I am Sir Your Real
Friend and very Humble Servant
THOS FITCH

Mr Secretary

THOMAS FITCH TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

NORWALK 15th Septr 1755

Sir

as Many Men appear to offer their Service for the Defence of the Country and to go Volunteirs in independant Companies at their own Expence I tho't it proper to give them all proper Encouragement that I could and therefore have given out Commissions for two Companies and have inclosed Some Blanks for that Purpose understanding the Same Spirit prevails your way two of the Blanks are Drawn all but the Names the other must be Drawn agreable to that Form, unless upon Consideration you should think of some proper Amendment or Alteration which I hope you will be so free and Kind as to Make if you see it Necessary for I formed it while Labouring under much indisposition of Body. I propose if the Company is but about fifty or Sixty one Lt is Sufficient if it amounts to about a hundred it will be best to have two. I Desire you to Dispose of these Blanks accordingly and if more Companies offer should be glad the Commissions might be Drawn and Sent to me to Sign The Dept Govr Desired me to Signify my opinion to you concerning the Supply of the Colony Stock of Amunition. I therefore freely Say that I think it Convenient that what it has been Exhausted on the present Occasion should soon be Supplyed again by the Treasurer the Independant Companies will be wanted notwithstanding the victory obtained in the Late Dispute as the French will Reinforce and Make one push More and if we are Strong Enough to overcome them then I conclude the Matter will be Decided,

Majr G. Lyman Desires more than the 2000 for Reinforcements The Massachusets have ordered 2000 Men besides the Eight hundred which are this Day to be filled up you will be pleased to Acquaint Mr Ledyard of my Sentiments on these Points to whom I should have wrote in answer to his Letter but must at present be excused with as Little writing as possible hope thro' the goodness of God to be more able in a few Days as I think I am getting well being now considerable Better than I have been.

I am Sir your very
Humble Servant
THOS FITCH

Col Wyllys

DANIEL EDWARDS TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

Windham 7br 19th a 3 P. M.*

Sr

We are Advis'd by Letter from Mr Ledyard to Capt Hide of Lebanon yt Govr Fitch has Lrs from our Genls requesting more men than ye Two Thousand, & yt ye Govr has Signifyed this to you & other Gentlemen to Encourage volunteers &c. The Matter lyes Something in ye Dark here. If ye Matter be Just so, And ye Generals have in fact applied to ye Govr, It might have been & may be of Special Service to transmit a transcript of Such letter & Advices to ye hands of Some Gentlemen of Influence here. The affair in its importance is vast, its Difficultys even Under ye regulations of ye Publick & most Mature Deliberations are not Small, how much Greater then is ye Difficulty of Adventageously & Safely fiting and Sending a body of Troops as it were Unadvised & undeliberated?

I Say not this by way of objection to all most vigorous Measures (wc God forbid it be opposd by Any one) But to Signify the greater Necessity of every thing tending to Enforce & encourage it Matter, Then which nothing can be

*The year is unquestionably 1755.

more Efficatious than the Copys Gen^als or Governors Letters on that head.

The Bearer waits, & cant Add Save y^t
am with Great esteem
S^r your Most Humble Servt
D EDWARDS

P. S. I Imagine y^e affair if Something Enlivend would Soon take Effect this to good purpose D E

[Superscribed] To GEORGE WYLLYS Esq^r att Hartford These

WILLIAM PITKIN TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

WINDHAM 19^th Sept^r 1755

Sir

We have Some information That There are Late Acc^ts from The Gov^r, Showing That The General at The Camp hath wrote for further Recruits from hence beyond The 2000 men Sent &c If There Is any Thing of That Nature please to send us a Transcript of The Gov^rs Letter and of That from The Generals to him if any such Copy be sent and Whatever You have That is New & What is now Doing with you, We are Concerned for our Army, & Willing to Assistance all Assistance In our Power, at The Desire of The Gentlemen here I have Sent This Express, & Expect Your Answer & Am Sir

Your Humble Servant
W^M PITKIN

To GEO. WYLLYS Esq^r

MICHAEL BURNHAM TO GEORGE WYLLYS AND JOHN LEDYARD.

MIDLETOWN Sept 20^th 1755

Gentlemen

these may Serve to acquint you that I agreable to your letter to me of the 17^th instant Emeadatly acquanted Each man that went with me before and Re^d your Letter to them: about 20 out of 60 Semed at first willing to Go againe: but some of them 20 this afternone Grew Cold: and I find that

I must drop the affaire I am sensiable som persons have Endeavored to disengage the minds of many that were warmely ingaged before and told they would be reddy when ever I Should Call them againe to go on the Same affaire: thus stands affaire Scituated and I dont see at present how I Can help it

I am your verry Humble Sert
MICHLL BURNHAM

Messrs Willis and Ledyard
[Superscribed] To Coll George Wylys at Hartford

THOMAS FITCH TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

Norwalk 21st Septr 1755

Sir

I have the Satisfaction to Acquaint you and the Gentlemen Concerned that I have not given order for one Blanket at New York having heard of the Danger before any thing was Done. I presume the Commissaries are all apprized of the Same Danger, what I wrote before Concerning Commissions for independant Companies I propose to Abide by and if more Commissions are Wanted shall Readily give them. Mr Rowland will Set out for Albany tomorrow or Next Day to take Care of the Stores &c and forward them to the Army that Commissary Lyman may Attend the Forces I shall give Mr Rowland orders to do Every thing Needful for the Dispatch of the Stores, I am thankful to the Gentlemen and to you for Every hint and Suggestion in this Critical Time when it is Almost impossible but that I shall Slip Some things tho' my tho'ts are Continually upon the Business I purpose to Continue my Motions to New York for Such help as May be had from them,

I am Sir your most
Humble Servant
THOS FITCH

P. S. I have Sent to New York for Powder, Lead Flints and Some Flower to be forwarded to Albany with Speed.

[Superscribed] To George Wyllys Esqr at Hartford

PHINEAS LYMAN TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

Camp at Lake George 26th Sepr 1755

Sr

as I Trust you have heard of the Battel & Circumstances of the Army I Can Inform you of Nothing New more than the Barer Can inform therefore shall Leave it to him should be glad you would Send me about four dozen of Blank Commissions for we Can't fill up all the Vacancies now made & if we Cross the Lake it will Soon be & Expect warm work & it is of Importance to keep the Commissioners full Govr Hardy is at Albany & forward ye Transportation of Provision very fast. I hope we shall soon be at Crown Point I believe Ten days on the further Side of the Lake will determine who shall Winter in Crown Point we find by our Scouts that is very good Land for three or four mile this Side the Narrows & good marching by Land from this Place I Can't bare that the French should hold Crown Point this winter & am in hast your friend & very humble Servant

PHINS LYMAN

Coll Wyllys

[Superscribed] To Coll George Wyllys Esqr at Hartford

ELIPHALET DYER TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

Albany 3d Octobr 1755

Mr Wyllys Sr

According to your desire before I left Hartford to let you know The Situation of our Affairs as oft as possible oppertunity Now presenting I Chearfully Embrace it and in ye first place as perhaps it Will be a Generall Inquiry in our Colony as They were Very Industrious in Equipping & Sending forth our Recruiting forces with all possible Dispatch that they Tarry and Delay So Long at Albany to which I would Answer when We arrivd here Nor to this time is any Transport arrivd Except a Small boat as it may with propriety be Calld from Stratford So that we were Destitute of every kind of Utensill for Cooking only as the

Commisrs out of Absolute Necessity provided a Quantity of brass Kettels which was ye only dish to Boil in & eat out of & Combine our provisions in which would Turn out half a dozen of almost every Company every day Sick tho to Some but of Short Continuance and at the Camp Very Short for bread and but little here in ye Stores which togather with great Dificulty in Transporting our Stores from This place there So as to have a Surplus Necessary for further Action Caus'd a Determination by ye Council at the Camp which was by the Generall forwarded here Strictly prohibiting any greater Number of our Reenforcements to Move forward than was absolutely Necessary to Guard the Provisions Sent up with which we have Complyd and have been Constantly Detaching Such Number only as was proper for that purpose & Still wait to Conduct what may arrive in our Transports in ye Same Manner As for News from ye Camp they are Exerting themselves in all proper Measures to goe forward & to Secure themselves where they be as to ye Enemy Nothing more formidable than Can reasonably be Expected they are fortifying in ye best Manner they can to hinder our pass att the Narrows we Should think them Stupid if they did Not tho by Some late Scouts hear they report we may land this Side & pass without Troubling their New fortifications if So Well by what I Can learn the Land Nor Water as yet have been Sufficiently Investigated to know either ye Ease or Dificulty of our Armys passing hope it may Soon be done to better purpose at ye Camp they are building & preparing Gundaloes an Odd but Significant Term for by them must ye Weighty Cannon Gravely Move & be Able to Sustain Not only the Cannons proper Weight but also their Elastick force when Calld to Their Mighty Roar but Sr on ye whole as propitious Heaven as yet Smiles upon us with respect to the Season at present both Warm and dry if the Same favour Should yet a while Continue Till the Province and Our Stores Arrive And we get them forward to ye Camp which must be by four or five hundred Waggons being Employed and all the horse we Can get to make a proper Surplus to our Army I See Nor Learn Nothing

Discourageing in our farther progress But believe me if a few heavy rains in the Interim Should fall there is So many dificult passes of Water thereby would be Impassable & the road So prodigious Miery that by all I Can Learn it will be Impossible to Supply our Army with Provisions and Consequently No farther progress This fall and as to that on Providence we must relye And with ye Event be Content

This Sr fm yr Oblidgd Friend
& Very Hle Servt
ELIPHT DYER

P S New York have made a Donation to ye Army of £500 o o Their Currency to Supply Necessaries for ye Sick. Long Island have made a Donation to ye Army of Nine hundred Sheep Some gone forward to ye Camp ye remainder Now at Albany &c

this may be Communicated if Need full E D

[Superscribed] To George Wyllys Esqr Att Hartford Connecticutt

JAMES MONTRESOR* TO JONATHAN TRUMBLE.

New York April 15th 1756

Sir

Your favour of the 31st Ulto was received at the same time with an Order from Genl Shirley, to be at Albany by the 20th instant. which prevents me from Sending the Plan Profils and Estimates for your intended Battery and Fortifications proposed to be erected at New London in the manner that I coud wish. for want of time Sufficient. however with what little I have had. have made use of it in laying the Plan of the Design on the same Draught you sent me. and to the Same Scale. marked in red lines. you may observe that I have humoured the part towards the Sea with the land in order to gain the most defence. and in the rear have Secured it with a Ditch. which sinking will furnish

*This letter apparently corrects by a year the statement made in The Montresor Journals, published by the New York Historical Society, concerning Col. James Montresor, that "early in 1757 he was ordered to America."

you with the Stone necessary for the work and at the same time strengthen considerably this Fort or Battery. as to the Length of the lines. a dozen yards more or less cannot be of any consequence towards the Sea but in the rear. the dimensions are to be kept up as near as possible. In an annexed Paper I have sent the Section or Profil thro the Work. shewing the heights of your Walls above the levels of the Ground and of the Water. also the thickness and in what manner by brick caseing and Earth between. The whole can't come to a great deal of money. and may be done at different beginning with the Batterys towards the Sea. observing that your walls at top need not be above 10 ft thick as I have marked the Point blank shots of Cannon with a red line on the Plan. when further the Shot begins to be very uncertain. and then from the Sea. as there is always a motion. renders it very uncertain: for which reason the walls are not kept to the same thickness as they woud be towards the land Side. where Batterys might be erected against it therefore the walls are commonly augmented to 18 ft thick. but never more. I am sorry that I cannot have the pleasure of setting your work out my self if you intend to build it, as I should like to see the thing finished in the shape proposed. as I am convinced it would be exceeding strong by its situation. but since it can't be otherwise; and if you want any further assistance you'll be so kind to direct for me at Albany. where I hope to be next Week. In relation to any Demands I with pleasure give my labour in any thing that can contribute to the safety or security of his Majesty's Colonies. whilst I am here and on this service desiring nothing else than the saving of Postage. which is very exorbitant in this part of the World.

I am with great Regard
Sir Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
JAS MONTRESOR

JonN Trumble Esqr

[Superscribed] To Jonathan Trumble Esqr at Lebanon or New London Connecticut

THOMAS FITCH TO RICHARD JACKSON.

NORWALK 23d February 1765

Sir

I have just received your Favours of the 27th of November and 8th of December and hope by this Time you have received my Letter by Mr Ingersoll with the Pamphlets containing some observations against Stamp Duties and Also my other Letter of the 7th of December inclosing an Address to the House of Commons praying against being Charged with those Duties By those Letters and what Accompanied them you have the Substance of what we can Say against an Act's being Past for Charging Certain Stamp Duties on the Colonies and if notwithstanding all that can be Said on this Side the Water and what may be better and more forceably Urged by our Friends in our Favour on your Side the Water, the Parliament in their Superior Wisdom Shall Judge it Expedient to and accordingly do pass an Act for laying those Burdens upon us we must Submit. We never pretend in the least to Question whether Acts of Parliament expressly extended to the Plantations are binding but always Submit to them as binding. We have I apprehend carefully avoided in all we have Said Saying or Suggesting anything against the Power or Authority of the Parliament which is Supreme, and were fearful those bold and impolitic Strokes against the Rights or Power of Parliament which have been published would prove Detrimental to the Interest of the Colonies in General and Am Sorry that matter was ever brought into Debate either at Home or in America. We may nevertheless with propriety and without offence I Suppose Represent the General Priviledges and Immunities of the Subjects and in particular of the Americans and the Constitutional Rights by virtue of which they Enjoy those Priviledges and from thence Argue the inexpediency or Hardships of Some proposed Measures but all with becoming Submission to the Wisdom and Authority of the Supreme Legislature, this Method we have Endeavoured to pursue, and must leave the Event to ye Providence which Rules over All.

Altho there may be as you observe 100000 people in Great Britain who have no Right to vote in the Election of Members of Parliament and so are not Represented therein by an Explicit consent yet I conceive their Case and the Case of the People in the Colonies Differ. Those People are virtually or Constructively Represented in Parliament as they are within that Body which by the Constitution is Supposed to be Represented according to an Establishment, by Which Certain Persons only of that Body are the Qualified Electors of the whole therefore they are all Subject to the Laws as as being Supposed to be made by their Consent Mediately or Immediately given.

The Kings Subjects in the Plantations are a Body or whole Country of People who have not one Qualified Elector among them to Suppose a Representation therefore in this is Difficult and therefore Acts of Parliament do not as I conceive bind them or take Place among them as being Represented in Parliament or on the Supposition of their Consent, but by virtue of that Parliamentary Authority which the Supream Legislature hath over all the Kings Dominions, and when that authority is extended it is not by Implication of Law but by express words. The Plantations therefore agreable to the general Constitution of the Nation have always had Legislatures of their own (wherein they are Represented) Subject Nevertheless to the Controul of the Supream Power over the whole.

In my Letter of the 7th of December I Signifyed I hoped to procure Some Evidence Respecting Masons Conduct in Regard to the Mohegan Affair. Sinc that I have received Some Account about that Matter but am not furnished with Authentic Proofs the Accounts I have Are that so long ago as 1739 which was Just after the first Commission of Review which Samuel Mason obtained Mr Hill House A Minister of the Gospel now Decd for the Consideration of £100 old Tenor obtain'd a Quit Claim from Samll Mason of all Hill Houses Lands within the Indian Claim Mason also gave him a Bond of £3000 to Save himself from all Judgments in Case of any Review of Dudleys Judgment

so Called, there is also a bond of £2000 under the Hands of the present John Mason and John Uncas to Jeremiah Vallet conditioned to Secure him his Lands in Said Claim for which he pd 20 Dollars the Gentlemen who Enquired after these Matters Suppose there are many Such Writings which the People concerned Keep Secret. Many Men of undoubted veracity I am Informed Declare that John Mason had been with them Just before he Embarked for England & Urged them to agree with him insisting on Large Sums from Some to others offered to give Quitclaims on more Easy Terms. I am also Informed from the present Sachem of that Tribe of Indians that one Samson Occum who has had something of an Education and has been ordained a Minister being one of those Indians has got the Tribe Male and female to Sign a Letter to the King containing many Complaints &c. how that is I can't Say but upon the whole it is Easy to See the Controversy is Stirred by Masons and others and while they pretend to Act for the Indians they are prosecuting their own Avaritious and Sinister Views

We formerly in 1743 objected against Masons Appeal because he had no Right to Act for the Indians who never either Desired or appointed him to Act for them unless a Discontented Party of them Drawn off by Masons Influence and Assuming the Authority of the Tribe contrary to all former understanding Desiring him to appear for them may be look't upon as a Lawful appointment these objections are enterd in the Close of the Commissioners Book. I believe therefore it may be best not to Admit the Present Masons Right to prosecute an Appeal or to have any Right to act in the Affair, and Especially to Insist he is acting for himself and pretends to Claim and Dispose of the Interest as he thinks proper and for Any one to Request the Honour and Authority of the Crown to Interpose in the Behalf of Such Deceitful and Collusive Managements can be deemed nothing less than offring an Indignity to it. Mr Ingersoll if he be with you can Set these Matters in a much better and fuller Light and if you shall find it necessary to have

further Evidence be pleased to point out what and I will endeavour to procure what may be had. Submitting the Conduct of this and other Colony affairs to your prudent Management

I am Sir with the most Sincere Respects
and Esteem your most obedient
and most humble Servant
THOS FITCH

RICHARD JACKSON Esqr
[Indorsed] Letter to Mr Jackson 23d February 1765

DUNCAN STEWART TO JOHN TEMPLE.

Copy of a Letter from John Duncan Stewart Esquire Collector of New London in Connecticut to John Temple Esqr Surveyor General of the Customs at Boston dated 19 Decr 1765.

Sir,

I am favored with Yours of the 1st Instant and am much obliged to You for giving Me leave to go to Boston, the times however are such that I think it would not be prudent, especially as I have not *now* any particular Business.

The Subject of my Letter of the 18th September was of such a Nature that I am perswaded you would have remembered it had you received it, and yet I cannot conceive how it should miscarry as I put it Myself into the Post Office.

I have now to acquaint you with an irregular Step I have lately been obliged to take. I mean that on Saturday last, I was under the necessity of clearing out Vessells on unstamped Papers. You not giving Me any Advice or Directions on this Head, I imagined was owing to your thinking it most prudent to leave Me to act according to the Circumstances I should find Myself in from the Temper of the People.

The last Resolves of the respectable Populace, as they are pleased to name themselves, which I send inclosed will

best shew what that is. Soon after they had passed them, Several came and demanded a Clearance, I told them I had as yet received no Instructions from the Surveyor General, and to do it without would not only be going out of all Rule, but that their Property would still be endangered.

After much talk they consented to wait the Arrival of the Eastern & Western Posts, and agreeable to this they pay Me another Visit on Friday, I said I still had no Directions from you, but as far as I could judge I should certainly have them in a few Days; They told Me they would not wait no longer and insisted upon having them, I desired them to return the next Morning, and that I should then tell them whether I should or should not. In the Mean time I went to Mr Law for his Opinion, and he advised Me by all Means to grant them, Since otherwise I might be harrassed with numberless Lawsuits, on Account of the Damages I should be considered as the Occasion of, and as they would be tryed in their own Courts would probably be given against Me, Whereas by granting them and declaring at the same time that I considered the doing it as wrong if any ill Consequence should arise they would then be under the Necessity of sustaining the Loss themselves. I likewise considered that I had already seen many extraordinary Outrages committed by the Populace, and that if I drove these with Me to the last Extremity, I might perhaps, beside ill Consequences to Myself endanger the Loss of above £1000 Sterling in my hands that belonged to his Majesty. And my Apprehension on this Account was not without foundation. At any Rate that I was not the first to set the Example, the Custom houses at Philadelphia, New York and many other Places to the Westward having already done it, and probably from the same Motives that induced Me, Notwithstanding of all this, if you tell Me that you disapprove of what I have done, and desire Me not to clear out any till you give Me Directions for that Purpose you may be assured I will not.

(Signed) DUNCAN STEWART

P. S. Since writing the above I see the Resolves I refer to are printed in the Boston Post Boy & Advertiser So that I think it is needless to send them.

[Indorsed] Recd 7 March & Sent to the Treasury the 8 March 1766. Receed 10 March 1766 in Mr Freenantle's lre of 8th

MERCHANTS OF LONDON TO COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

London 18th March 1766

Gentlemen

We have now the Satisfaction of informing you by Capt Wray sent by us express in the Ship Dispatch that the Bill for repealing the Stamp Act received the Royal Assent this day. To enumerate the Difficulties which we have had in this Affair, would be a disagreeable Task to us; as it might seem calculated to enhance our own Merit, at the Expence of Characters whom we respect for their Situation, however they may have been induced to Act a part we could not Approve, or thoroughly reconcile to the true Interests of the British Empire.

Nevertheless, we think ourselves entituled; from the pains we have taken to Serve you, to the priviledge of imparting our Sentiments on your past and future Conduct, with that freedom and Impartiality which Observation and experience dictate.

Y[ ]t know better, than to imagine that any well regulated Government will Suffer Laws, enacted with a view to public Good, to be disputed by lawless Rioters, with Impunity.

There is no Government so perfect, but thro' misinformation, and the frailties even of the most elevated human Understandings, Mistakes, or at least the Appearance of such, may arise in the Conduct of Affairs, even in the wisest Legislature. but, is it just, is it tollerable, that without proof of Inconvenience, tumultuous force shall be encouraged by a part, to fly in the face of power established for the good of the whole? We are persuaded Gentlemen, that

you cannot be of that Opinion, and that you will exert your utmost Endeavours to cancell the Remembrance of such flagrant Breaches of publick order, and to manifest your Gratitude and Affection to your Mother Country, which by the Repeal of this Act has given such an incontestable proof of her Moderation.

What Sentiments you ought to entertain on this Occasion, and what conduct we would wish you to Observe, will sufficiently Appear from our former Letter dated 28th February last, and sent by the first Conveyance, the Moment we Could inform you, with any Degree of certainty what was likely to be the Fate of the Stamp Act.

We shall only Observe, that under Providence, you are indebted for this Event to the Clemency and Paternal Regard of his Majesty for the Happiness of his Subjects; to the Publick Spirit, Abilities, and firmness of the present Administration; and to the Humanity, prudence and Patriotism of the generality of those who compose the Legislature, and the most considerable persons of every Rank in this Kingdom.

We hope Gentleman, that this Conduct in the British Legislature, provoked by the most irritating measures on your side, will for ever be a Lesson to your posterity; as it is the most convincing proof, that if by any Means, Laws are or should be, enacted, detrimental or seeming oppressive to any part of the British Subjects; the British Legislature, will at all times, with the utmost [ ]rness consider every Grievance and redress them the moment [ ] known

We cannot but acquaint you that had the Americans endeavoured to acquiesce with the Law, and dutifully represented the Hardships as they arose, your Relief *would* have been more Speedy, and we should have avoided many difficulties as well as not a few *unanswerable* mortifying Reproaches on your Account

Such however is the Patriotism and Magnanimity of those in power, that, unaffected by the Conduct of many on you[ ]e the Water, and the Strenuous Efforts of an

Opposition here to every measure of Lenity and Indulgence towards America, they are endeavouring to establish its Commerce in particular, as well as that of the British Empire in general, upon the most solid foundation, and the most Extensive Plan of Utility

On your parts we hope that nothing will be wanting to obliterate the Rememberance of what has passed, by Setting the Example yourselves, and promoting the like Sentiments in others; of a dutiful Attachment to your Sovereign and the Interests of your Mother Country; a just Submission to the Laws, and Respect for the Legislature, for in this you are most effectually promoting your own happiness and Security.

By a Conduct like this Gentlemen, you will both encourage and enable us to Serve you with Zeal on future Emergencys, should any such arise; and to support our mutual Interests; the Interests of the Colonies which are inseperable from the common Interests of Great Britain [ ] Efficacy and Success We are

Gentl^{n} Your Assured Friends & very hum serv^{ts}

GEORGE MAYNARD	GRAH^{M} FRANK & CO.
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inclosed we send the Act for the Repeal of the Stamp Act

[Superscribed] To GEORGE WILLIS Esqr Hartford Connecticut ℔ Dispatch Capt Wray

ERRATUM.

Page 183. For CHAS. PASTON read CHAS. PAXTON.

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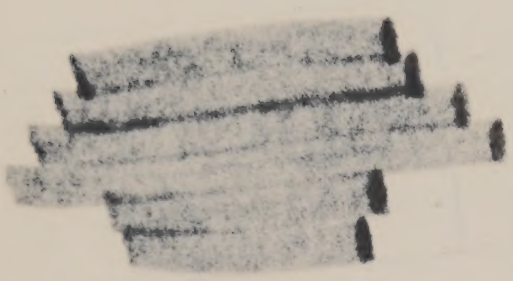

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